THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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ISRAEL ARMY STEPS UP GROUND OFFENSIVE IN GAZA STRIP

Israel's army pressed ground operations across the Gaza Strip on Sunday, urging Palestinians to flee an offensive in Hamas-ruled Rafah city

PALESTINIAN TOLL IN GAZA'S WAR PASSES 50,000

More than 50,000 Palestinians have officially been declared to have been killed in the war between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip, the territory's Health Ministry said on Sunday, even as new Israeli airstrikes killed at least 26 Palestinians overnight, including a top Hamas political leader and several women and children | P9

'ISRAEL'S PLANS VIOLATE GLOBAL LAWS'

- Israel's Cabinet approved a proposal to set up a new directorate for advancing "voluntary departure" of Palestinians in line with Donald Trump's proposal to depopulate Gaza
- Palestinians say they don't want to leave, and rights groups say Israel's proposal amounts violation of international law

13

NEW SETTLEMENTS IN THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK TO BE CREATED BY ISRAEL

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Do not dispose of phone or tamper with data, HC CJ tells judge Varma

SHEKHAR SINGH @ New Delhi

DELHI High Court Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya has instructed Justice Yashwant Varma not to dispose of his mobile phone(s) or delete, modify, or tamper with any conversations, messages, or data. The directive conveyed through a formal letter dated March 21 follows an order from Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, emphasising the need to preserve evidence.

In a subsequent letter addressed to the CJI, Chief Justice Upadhyaya said he had requested the Delhi Police commissioner to furnish call detail records (CDR) and internet protocol detail records (IPDR) of Justice Varma's mobile phone for the past six months.

"The call detail records have been received and are being forwarded in a pen drive along with this letter. As for the IPDR, the same shall be provided as soon as it is received from the Commissioner of Police, Delhi, or the relevant mobile service provider," the letter stated.

Justice Yashwant Varma

The letter stated that a formal request had been made to the DCP (Security) to obtain details of personal security officers and security personnel stationed at Justice Varma's residence over the last six months. Once received, these records would be duly submitted.

The developments come in the wake of a fire that broke out at Justice Varma's residence on Tughlaq Road on the night of March 14, leading to the discovery of currency notes in a storeroom inside the judge's official residence.

Justice Varma, on his part, has dismissed the allegations and termed them "a conspiracy to tarnish" his reputation.

In a written response to Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya on March 22, Justice Varma stated, "... No cash was ever placed in that storeroom either by me or any of my family members. The suggestion that one would store cash in a commonly-used storeroom verges on the incredible and incredulous."

Reservation based on religion is against Constitution: Hosabale

RSS general secretary says it is only allowed for backward classes within a religion

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI & RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ B'luru / New Delhi

AMID the controversy over the Karnataka government's decision to introduce a 4% reservation for Muslims in government contracts and projects, RSS General Secretary **Dattatreya Hosabale** said on Sunday that the move is untenable as the Constitution does not allow religion-based quota.

"Reservation based on religion is not possible; it is possible only for backward classes within a religion," he said.

On the Karnataka government's decision to bring in a quota for Muslim contractors, Hosabale said such attempts were made earlier by Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, but those were futile as high courts set aside the decisions.

"Religion-based reservation is not accepted in the Constitution authored by Babasaheb Ambedkar. Anybody doing it is going against the architect of our Constitution," he added.

The remarks by Hosabale, who holds the second-highest position in the Sangh hierarchy, were made in Bengaluru after the conclusion of the the three-day annual Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha, which serves as the highest decision-making body of the RSS.

On the demand of Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal to remove the tomb of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in Maharashtra, he regretted that Aurangzeb who was against the ethos of Indian culture is being idolised. "Aurangzeb's brother Dara Shikoh was not made an icon. Are we going to move forward by idolising someone who has gone against the ethos of India or are we going to go with those who worked according to the traditions of this land? Aurangazeb doesn't sit well here, but his brother does," he said.

On the Karnataka government's resolution pressing the Centre to allocate grants for Scheduled Castes / Tribes in proportion to their population, he said any move for the betterment of society is welcome.

Responding to a question on whether the RSS considers the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya as its achievement, he said the shrine is the achievement of the Hindu society as a whole.

HDK TO CLEAR JDS STAND TODAY

Janata Dal (Secular), an NDA ally, is reportedly in a Catch-22 situation as to whether to support Karnataka's 4% quota or not. Sources said Union minister and JDS state president H D Kumaraswamy will make the party's stand clear in New Delhi on Monday. "It is likely that JDS will support the BJP on the quota bill," said a party leader| P4

Kerala BJP bets on Rajeev Chandrasekhar as new chief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ T'Puram

THE BJP has selected former Union minister and businessman **Rajeev Chandrasekhar** to lead its Kerala unit. The decision was finalised during a meeting chaired by BJP central observer Pralhad Joshi in New Delhi on Saturday, party sources said. The BJP's core committee met in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday to endorse this decision, with attendees including Kerala in-charge Prakash Javadekar and co-incharge Aparajita Sarangi, MP.

The official announcement is expected on Monday during the state council meeting in Thiruvananthapuram.

On Sunday, Chandrasekhar submitted his nomination before the returning officer, Narayanan Namboothiri, at the BJP headquarters in the state capital. Given that Chandrasekhar is the sole nominee, his election on Monday is expected to be a mere formality. He will succeed K Surendran who served as state president for five years, including two years as interim chief.

By taking Chandrasekhar on board, the BJP is signalling its focus on securing the upper-caste Hindu vote base.

SUNRISERS' Smashing Start

Kishan makes his SRH debut with a ton as his team beats RR. A look...

KISHAN MAKES A STATEMENT

After being sidelined from the Indian setup, Ishan Kishan, for his new IPL team, smashed an unbeaten 47-ball 106 helping Sunrisers Hyderabad to 286/6. His first IPL century played a part in Rajasthan Royals falling short by 44 runs

RECORDS TUMBLE IN HYD

In what is one of the flattest grounds of the IPL, bowlers were taken for a ride in Hyderabad on Sunday. Jofra Archer's 0/76 became the most expensive spell in the history of IPL as four bowlers across sides went over 50 runs

NOOR NAILS IT AT CHEPAUK

One of the most anticipated combinations this season, Afghanistan spinner Noor Ahmad showed why he is going to be lethal for Chennai Super Kings as he took 4/18 in four overs against Mumbai Indians at the MA Chidambaram Stadium. His spell helped CSK beat MI by four wickets | P11

Crimes against children rise, over 10 POCSO cases filed every day this year

RAKSHITH GOWDA @ Bengaluru

CRIMES against children in the state have surged, with an average of 10 Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) cases registered every day in the first two months of 2025.

In 2024, the police registered 8,233 cases of crime against children, an increase from 7,854 cases in 2023. Among these, 4,003 were POCSO cases, marking a 38.89% rise in four years, from 2,882 cases in 2021. Despite the increase in the number of cases, the conviction rate remains low, with only 353 convictions out of 13,990 total cases registered in four years (2021-2024).

Worryingly, over 26% of these cases ended in acquittal of the accused (3,662), while 202 were classified as false cases. The disturbing trend continues in 2025, with 348 and 264 POCSO cases registered in January and February respectively.

Crimes against children in the state saw over 7% rise in 2024 compared to 2023, according to police data. Additionally, 23 child marriage cases and 16 child labour cases were reported in the first two months of the year.

According to the State Crime Records Bureau, under the Children Act, police have registered 105 cases of child labour, 142 under the Juvenile Justice Act, and 152 under the the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act in 2024. Last year, the state also reported 3,766 cases of child kidnapping and abduction.

Child rights activist Vasudev Sharma said, "Increasing number of cases indicates growing awareness about reporting cases, but the punishment for criminals remains low. Most cases of child sexual abuse happen within the family or involve someone known to the victim." P3

EXPRESS READ

Standardised bill for all hospitals soon

New Delhi: The Centre will release a standardised format for hospital bills applicable to clinical establishments, including hospitals, nursing homes, and diagnostic centres. It will require them to provide a clear breakdown of charges incurred by the patient | P7

Pope Francis back home after 5 weeks in hospital

Vatican City : A frail Pope Francis returned to the Vatican on Sunday after a five-week hospitalization for life-threatening double pneumonia, and he made a surprise stop at his favorite basilica on the way home before two months of recovery | P9

Summer scorcher for residents, private water tanker prices soar 100% in B'luru

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

AS summer sets in, Bengalureans are facing a double blow — soaring heat and escalating private water tanker prices. Many parts of the city, which rely on private tankers for 60-70% of their water needs, are already feeling the pinch as rates have almost doubled.

Even as the residents suffer, state's legislators will enjoy a 100% increase in their salaries, as a Bill passed during the budget session last week will ensure increased emoluments for the netas.

A 6,000-litre tanker, which cost between Rs 450 and Rs 500 earlier, now costs up to Rs 750-800, an 8,000-litre tanker costs up to Rs 1,000-1,200, while a 12,000-litre tanker cost has surged to Rs 2,200-2,500 from Rs 1,000-1,300 in areas like Varthur, Hennur, Marathahalli, and Whitefield.

Though the BBMP has the authority to regulate prices, officials told *TNIE* that they are not planning to intervene as the rates are "affordable". A BBMP official tried to reason that the increase in prices would force people to use water more responsibly and avoid wastage. P2

Residents of Narayanaswami Layout on JC Road collect water from a BWSSB tanker | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

> We recently introduced a new initiative to help residents book Cauvery water tankers online starting March-end
>
> BWSSB Official

RARE FIND

ASI discovers 110 megaliths near dam in Kerala

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

THE Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has stumbled upon a cluster of over 110 megaliths (large stones used to build structures and monuments) near the Malampuzha dam in Palakkad, Kerala, during a recent exploration expedition.

According to ASI officials, the discovery could offer more insights into ancient civilisations and their practices.

Megaliths indicate significant burial sites, ritualistic areas, or places of cultural importance. Megalithic structures were built using large, rough stones without mortar or cement. Such chambers were common during Neolithic and Bronze Ages.

The presence of ancient burial chambers suggests there could be a large organised settlement at the site and it could shed more light on the region's history.

The site near Malampuzha Dam in Palakkad where ASI officials found the megalithic structures | ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

"Recent explorations near the Malampuzha Dam in Palakkad, Kerala, has led to a discovery of megalithic structures spread across island-like mounds. The team of ASI surveyed the area and came across more than 110 megaliths spreading across 45 hectares of land," the ASI posted on X.

The ASI said most of the burials are of 'cist' variety — both single and multiple chambered — stone circles, urns, dolmens, and dolmenoids. "These structures are primarily constructed with massive granite slabs and boulders, some also incorporate laterite stones," it added.

Cist graves are small stone-built coffin-like boxes used to hold dead bodies. Megaliths are found across India. Most notable sites include Brahmagiri in Karnataka and Adichanallur in Tamil Nadu.

Recently, the ASI discovered a large collection of antiquities at Ratnagiri in Odisha.

Prize catch

The discovery of such a large number of megalithic burials in clusters could provide more insights about the early Iron Age society and belief system in Kerala, ASI officials said. The rich pottery adds depth to the site's cultural story

VIT CHENNAI

WELCOME TO THE

UNIVERSITY DAY

OF VIT, CHENNAI

25TH MARCH 2025, TUESDAY

CHIEF GUEST

Ms.Katrina Knapp

Vice Consul, Australian Consulate-General, Chennai

GUEST OF HONOUR

Mr. Sudeep Kunnamal

designate Chief Human Resource Officer, Tata Consultancy Services

Dr. G. Viswanathan

FOUNDER & CHANCELLOR

will preside

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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
Monday: 24.03.2025 • Year: Krodhi • Ayana: Uttarayana
Ritu: Sishira • Masa: Phalguna • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Dasami 12.19 am
Nakshatra: Uttharashada 12.10 am • Moon in Makara Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 20°C | MAX 32°C
FORECAST
Afternoon clouds

Sunrise 06.21 am
Sunset 06.30 pm
Moonrise 02.09 am
Moonset 01.41 pm

02 BENGALURU MONDAY 24.03.2025 newindianexpress.com

BBMP budget this week, outlay to cross ₹18,000 cr

To be the fifth budget tabled in the absence of an elected council

AKNISREE KARTHIK @Bengaluru

THE much-awaited Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) budget is likely to be presented this week either on March 27 or March 28. While the civic body's 2024-25 budget outlay was Rs 12,371.63 crore (which was revised post the approval from the State Government to Rs 13,116 crore), the 2025-26 budget, according to BBMP sources, is likely to be over Rs 18,000 crore.

The civic body has scheduled the budget meeting with the legislators from Bengaluru on Monday, in which Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who is also Bengaluru Development Minister, is also expected to take part to discuss this year's budget and the allocations to different heads like Brand Bengaluru with eight categories — Sugama Sanchara Bengaluru, Clean Bengaluru, Green Bengaluru, Healthy Bengaluru, Education Bengaluru, Tech Bengaluru, Vibrant Bengaluru and Water Security Bengaluru.

The upcoming budget will be the fifth budget that will be tabled in the absence of an elected BBMP council.

This year's budget will lay stress on basic infrastructure, make major roads signal-free and focus on solid waste management, which has been a severe issue haunting the city.

The last budget reserved a seed money of Rs 200 crore to prepare DPR for various road projects, including Urban Tunnel Project — at two places of heavy traffic congestion in the city. While the total cost for the tunnel road is Rs 40,000 crore, the State Government has stood 'guarantee' to BBMP for an amount of Rs 19,000 crore only and the rest, according to informed sources, has to be arranged by the civic body by securing loans.

Sources further said that the outlay is expected to go up as the State Government announced that the yearly grant of Rs 3,000 crore will be enhanced to Rs 7,000 crore. Also, to implement major developmental works on priority and to utilise the grants, a new Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) will be set up and the budget is likely to list out the developmental works.

The increase in this year's budget outlay can also be attributed to the increase in its revenue collection — property tax collection — where in this year the taxes are collected from chronic defaulters by auctioning their properties to recover the dues and the advertisement revenue.

Of the total 20.5 lakh properties falling under the BBMP limit, 3.49 lakh property owners have not paid their property taxes, out of which 1.73 lakh are chronic defaulters and 1.76 lahks are current year (2024-25) defaulters. In total, they owe Rs 390 crore to BBMP, said Special Commissioner (Revenue) Munish Moudgil. "All notices, SMSes, IVRS Calls, personal calls, and attachment notices have failed to make these chronic defaulters to pay. Even the One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme was not availed by chronic defaulters. For many years, they have not paid property tax. Letting such citizens off is totally unfair to honest taxpayers. Anyone speaking for these 10% chronic defaulters is standing against 90% honest taxpayers and against public interest," Moudgil said and added that BBMP is clear and determined to collect the property tax as per law. He requested people to support BBMP morally in its drive against these persistent and chronic tax defaulters.

One of the challenges before BBMP is to address the city's garbage menace

Tender coconut prices go north in city

AKNISREE KARTHIK @ Bengaluru

THIS summer, the price of Bengaluru's all-time favourite natural drink—tender coconut—is going north. As of Sunday, a good-quality tender coconut sold by roadside vendors costs over Rs 70, and on online delivery platforms, the starting price is over Rs 80. Those who opt to go for cheaper tender coconuts—those priced between Rs 25 and 40—complain that there is not even a mouthful of water in them, as most of them are matured ones, and the white flesh is as good as "mature coconut meat".

"Just a few weeks back, the price of a tender coconut was around Rs 35-40. Now the rates have witnessed a 50% jump. Also, the quantity of water is less," said Purushotham Shiva, a resident of Chamrajpet.

While Shiva said he opted for sharbat to beat the heat as a glass of it costs only Rs 30, others said they prefer buttermilk and fresh juices and cut fruits.

When *TNIE* spoke to some of the tender coconut vendors, they said it is usual for the prices to go up during summer months and then come down during the monsoon. But they said that this year, though there is huge demand for them in Bengaluru, there is a short supply of tender coconuts.

"A majority of tender coconuts we get in Bengaluru are from Maddur, Malavalli, Ramanagara, Mandya, Hassan, and Tumakuru. The nuts also come from some parts of Tamil Nadu too. But they are short in supply in Bengaluru," said a wholesale trader at Chamrajpet, who supplies to many retailers. He said that the lesser yield is one of the reasons for the price jump and also attributed the short supply in Bengaluru to the nuts also being supplied to parts of North India where there is a huge demand.

Another vendor said that he jumped to the watermelon business as his customers now prefer fruits over tender coconuts.

'Most apartments continue to rely on pvt water tankers'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ALTHOUGH BWSSB usually updates the BBMP when the private tanker price goes up, an official said that they do not have direct authority, He mentioned that they recently introduced a new initiative to help residents book Cauvery water tankers online starting March-end. This, the official said, will normalise supply in areas without piped water and prevent private tanker operators from overcharging. But residents were sceptical.

Last year, for four months, BWSSB set water tanker prices at Rs 600 for a 6,000-litre tanker, Rs 700 for an 8,000-litre tanker, and Rs 1,000 for a 12,000-litre tanker. Akash D'souza, a member of the Kanakapura Apartments Association, asked how is it fair that people are paying Rs 350 to Rs 1,000 extra, though the official rates have been fixed. "What is the government waiting for to cap the prices again," he wondered.Shyam M, a member of Whitefield Rising, said they are paying Rs 2,200 for a 12,000-litre tanker — nearly double the price they were paying earlier. "Whitefield lacks open spaces for water to percolate, making it difficult to see a rise in the groundwater table. Since last summer, the borewells have not fully recharged, because of which the majority of apartments continue to rely on private water tankers," he said.

Maandhar Reddy, a water tanker owner in HSR Layout, said they now travel up to 20 km to source water. "The areas where water is commercially extracted are moving further away. Each trip covers nearly 40-45 km. Earlier, we could fill a 12,000-litre tanker in under 30 minutes, but now it takes about two hours because groundwater levels have dropped already," Reddy said, adding that this limits water that they can extract in a day.

A DAY AFTER THE STORM

Civic workers clear an uprooted tree that fell during Saturday evening's heavy rain, in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Four railway stns to get EV battery-swapping kiosks

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

TO promote green energy, the Bengaluru Division of South Western Railway Zone is all set to launch electric vehicle battery-swapping kiosks at four of its major railway stations. Apart from benefiting public who use two-wheeler and three-wheeler EVs, it will offer an additional source of non-fare revenue for the Railways. It will be open to the general public and not merely for passengers or visitors to the stations.

The kioks are set for launch at KSR Bengaluru City (Third entry), Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal, Banaswadi and Yelahanka within a week.

Krishna Chaitanya, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Bengaluru Division said, "Each kiosk will be spread over 250 square feet and have Quick Interfacing Stations (QIS). Each QIS will hold 14 batteries each. With 56 batteries available at each kiosk, it can help 56 EV vehicle users each day."

Sun Mobility Pvt Ltd has been awarded the contract for a three-year period with a licence fee of Rs 22 lakh to be paid annually to Railways.

"The charge for the user will be Rs 32 per KW. For a user swapping his fully discharged battery on his two-wheeler, which is typically 1.5KW, the cost would be Rs 56. If the battery is only 50% discharged, only 50% of the cost would be collected, he explained.

Two-wheelers generally use one 1.5 Kw battery and three-wheelers use three 1.5 kw batteries.

"There is no separate parking space allotted for EVs here. Vehicle users just need to approach these kioks and exchange their present batteries for the fully-charged ones within five minutes here,"said another official.

Chaitanya added, "The use of EV vehicles is on the rise and hundreds of passengers and auto-drivers use them. These EV battery swapping stations will not only help them, but also other EV users who can locate these kiosks on their apps and exchange their batteries."

Urban transportation expert Sanjeev Dyammanavar, said it was a welcome move. "It will be very useful to visitors particularly in KSR Bengaluru and SMVT station which have high footfalls," he added.

EV battery-swapping kiosks ready for launch at Banaswadi Railway Station

EXPRESS READ

Extend tenure of guest teachers at least till Apr 30: Association appeals to CM

Bengaluru: The People's Alliance for Fundamental Right to Education (PAFRE) appealed to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to extend the tenure of guest teachers in government schools until at least April 30, citing concerns over incomplete academic work and its impact on students. In a letter to the CM, PAFRE chief convener and development educationist professor Niranjanaradhya VP highlighted the severe shortage of teachers in the state and mentioned that currently, 49,338 primary school teacher posts and 11,796 secondary school teacher posts remain vacant. To bridge this gap, 43,553 guest teachers — 34,455 in primary schools and 9,098 in secondary schools — are employed across Karnataka. He added that relieving guest teachers by the end of March would leave these academic responsibilities unfinished, creating major disruptions in schools and affecting students from marginalised communities. The letter acknowledged the recent Rs 2,000 increase in guest teachers honorarium, announced in the state budget, as a small but necessary support for their hard work. However, it emphasised that guest teachers play a crucial role beyond classroom teaching, particularly in the final academic processes of the school year.

Seventh Coffee Santhe supports women in coffee plantations

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

FROM mocha pots to unique flavours like masala apple-flavoured coffee decoction, the seventh edition of 'Coffee Santhe' blended traditional coffee flavours with emerging coffee trends at Freedom Park over the weekend.

Organised by the Bengaluru-based Women's Coffee Alliance – India (WCAI), the three-day event concluded on Sunday and featured stalls offering flavoured coffee powders, coffee beans from Coorg and Chikkamagaluru, floral-infused brews, and other specialty coffee products that have been gaining traction on social media.

The annual event is WCAI's main fundraising initiative, aimed at supporting women working in coffee plantations. The funds raised go toward ongoing projects that focus on women and child healthcare, education for girls, nutrition support, skill development, and elder care. The funds help address both the physical and mental well-being of workers.

People check a stall at the Coffee Santhe at Freedom Park | ALLEN EGENUSE J

WCAI Secretary Poornima Jairaj highlighted how farmers are expanding beyond cultivation into roasting, retail, and cafe ownership, bridging the gap from farm to cup. She also noted the growing trend of home brewing, with more consumers preferring freshly ground beans. "To showcase this, multiple stalls at the event are dedicated to displaying coffee beans from various plantations, helping consumers understand the coffee brewing process," she said.

The WCAI, on Sunday, also hosted finals of the Women Stars Brewer Championship featuring participants from coffee chains and home brewers across India, competing for the title of 'Woman Coffee Brewing Star' and the finals of the Robusta Brewing Skills Championship which aimed at showcasing the rich flavours of the Robusta bean.

Tricho Cards to protect crops without chemical pesticides

A stall by Krishi Sai Ekatha Private Limited displaying 'Tricho Cards' was the centre of attraction at the event. These eco-friendly cards, priced at Rs 200 each, are embedded with "Trichogramma" wasp eggs - a natural pest control solution. Trichogramma are tiny, beneficial insects that destroy the eggs of harmful crop pests like caterpillars and borers before they hatch.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

24TH March : Leo makes a lively intervention in the stellar situation today. If I could sum up this sign in just a few words I'd say it's generous, warm-hearted, loving and confident, but easily hurt. We may all develop this sign's sunny qualities but remember that our Leonine friends and partners are often much more sensitive than they pretend.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Today it's Uranus, that most distant and surprising of celestial bodies, which gives you the chance to skip the normal preliminaries in putting your ambitions into effect. Cash questions will preoccupy you later on, perhaps with unexpected results.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
It's fair to say that your planetary patterns are favourable, all the more so if your inclination is generally inspired, visionary even. The closer you come to practical responsibilities, the greater the need for additional care and caution.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Partners can't read your mind, so tell them what you think. If your aims are professional, and if you're planning a spot of personal promotion you could do worse than set your sights on the next few days. You may just receive a windfall, even if only on a modest scale.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The Moon is normally such a sympathetic planet, but today it leaves you in no doubt that it is other people who require your loving care and sympathy. Reach out and offer the hand of support to those in need. They will pay you back in their own way - when they can.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
There's no escape from busy planetary pictures and hence no way to avoid your responsibilities. The best course may be to get as much achieved as you possibly can in order to give yourself more scope for relaxation tomorrow and the day after. Have a break. Put your feet up!

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
You may see creative self-expression as a voluntary activity, but the planets don't agree. Today, in so many little ways, you may be compelled to be an individual and be true to your own utterly unique talents. Employers please note! And family members please take care!

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
There seems little doubt that home and family affairs will dominate your thoughts and feelings today. Even if you are determined to give the highest priority to work, it will be deep and fundamental issues which demand your attention, including your domestic relationships.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Some celestial indications suggest that you may be called away from home, possibly on account of work or a similar responsibility. In any event, the main goal is to communicate clearly and make yourself properly understood. Someone else may owe you an apology, but don't hold your breath!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Business affairs will occupy your attention. Your financial stars are looking considerably less complex than this time last year, and today you may cut across a whole series of irrelevant hangovers like the proverbial hot knife through butter.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
The ball is in your court. Tackle private affairs and deal with professional activities only if you feel adeep personal motivation. Romantic encounters and sentimental journeys are desirable, if only because the results may be much more delightful than expected.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Any feelings of uncertainty or confusion should be short-lived, and by late tomorrow you could be back in the driving seat. In the meantime, remember that you're now into a fantastically productive long-term cycle. The world will judge you by your deeds rather than your words.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Sometimes you just have to pay more attention to your own needs. After a long period of social responsibility, you may begin to streamline your personal commitments. If you're typical of your sign, your inclination is to withdraw from a particular public arena.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle ⬇

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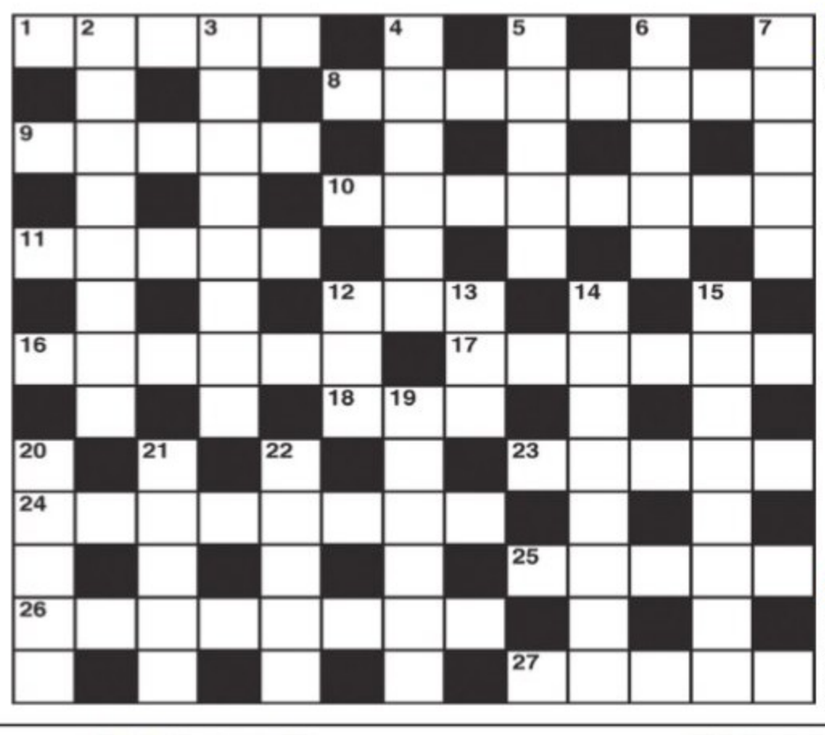
1							4	2
	5			6			9	
				9				5
5			3	4	8			6
8				2				
	1			3			8	
4	9							1
	7		8	5				

1	9	3	2	6	5	8	7	4
6	7	4	8	9	1	2	5	3
8	2	5	3	4	7	6	1	9
2	3	7	1	8	6	9	4	5
5	8	9	4	7	2	1	3	6
4	6	1	5	3	9	7	8	2
7	5	6	9	1	3	4	2	8
9	4	2	7	5	8	3	6	1
3	1	8	6	2	4	5	9	7

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Modern city can be built around an old one (5)
8 Explorer is holding last of the sledge dogs (8)
9 Just the girl for an excursion (5)
10 Sort of banana has insect visible on the outside (8)
11 Union notice that may be objected to (5)
12 A love note enclosed produces excitement (3)
16 Gets engaged when he is in a bit of trouble (6)
17 We slid around before finding controls (6)
18 A layer of rich enamel (3)
23 Worked at providing a song at the piano (5)
24 Rash but not so destructive we hear (8)
25 He may make money - about a pound (5)
26 It's Bob's turn to be obstinate (8)
27 Show travelled round (5)

DOWN
2 Girl restrained but persistent (8)
3 A hot line arranged for the operetta (8)
4 Climbed - then peeled off (6)
5 Weight of a gem? (5)
6 Old monarch - dim as can be (5)
7 Gun is out of order in practice (5)
12 Wood found in a tray? (3)
13 Confess one's love at two points (3)
14 Boring task for the rich (4-2-2)
15 A small deposit secures! (8)
19 Possibly run and see to make certain (6)
20 Vessel is said to be sailing (5)
21 He must be prepared to go on ahead (5)
22 Fifty cubs around but only thirteen in the pack (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Methodical, 6 Band, 10 Trust, 11 Cosmetics, 12 Icy waste, 13 Owing, 15 Atelier, 17 Stamina, 19 Fanfare, 21 Precede, 22 Sinai, 24 Bookworm, 27 Exonerate, 28 Awake, 29 Pier, 30 Settlement.

Down: 1 Matt, 2 Truncheon, 3 On tow, 4 Incisor, 5 Answers, 7 Alibi, 8 Designated, 9 Lemonade, 14 Half asleep, 16 Imagines, 18 Inebriate, 20 Embrace, 21 Project, 23 Noose, 25 Whale, 26 Feat.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

MYUYM

ENVTE

COSLIA

TLIELT

We need to figure out how to be more productive.
Maybe we should start with a "no phone at your workstation" policy.
THEY WORKED HARD TO MAXIMIZE EFFICIENCY AT THE CLOCK FACTORY BECAUSE ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: BATTY FLOSS BUNDLE INDOOR
Answer: The missing podium was finally found in the conference center's — LOST "STAND" FOUND

An elderly couple was found dead in their residence in Tahsildar Galli, Belagavi, after allegedly hanging themselves. The tragic incident came to light on Saturday afternoon, and a case of suspicious death has been registered at the Market Police Station. The deceased have been identified as Subhash Vasudev Ghadi (78) and Anasuya Subhash Ghadi (77). Health issues are suspected to have led the coupe to take the extreme step.

Happiness Index report leaves Indians unhappy

'Happiness is not just about bonding; anger and frustration can also create bonds'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

The recently released World Happiness Report 2025, which placed India at 118 out of 147 countries, has sparked widespread criticism from netizens, including prominent personalities. Many expressed disbelief over India ranking below Pakistan, Palestine and Ukraine, questioning the methodology used in the assessment.

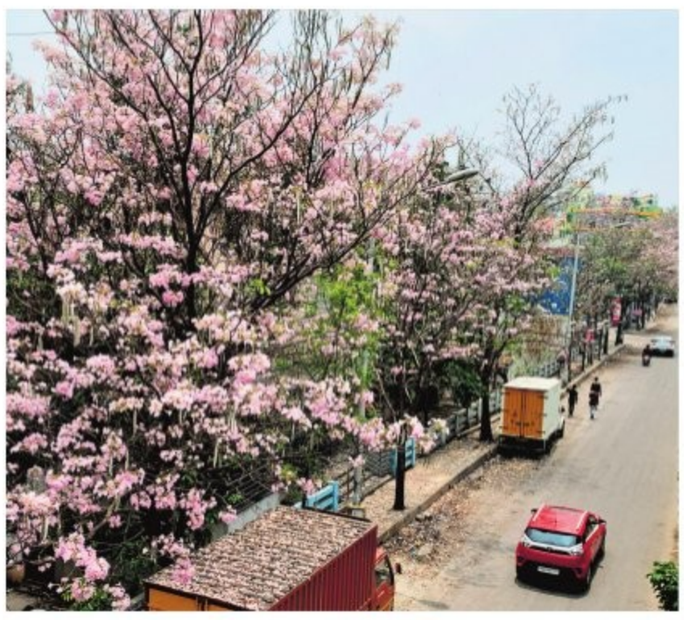
Spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar voiced his concern, emphasising that India's ranking should be much higher. "Having travelled extensively around the world, I feel India's ranking deserves to be much higher. I disagree with India being placed so low, even below conflict zones. Happiness is not just about bonding; anger and frustration can also create bonds. But when it comes to the happiness index, I feel India is far, far better," he said, and added that on his travels he has observed that human values are much higher in India. "Compassion, the way people welcome guests and how they share their resources is incredible. If something happens to a family, the entire village comes together to help. This kind of social bonding is very strong," he said, adding there are issues in the country, but in the last decade, there has been significant improvement. He also argued that poverty does not necessarily equate to unhappiness, citing how even in India's slums, people exhibit joy and resilience.

The World Happiness Report 2025, prepared by University of Oxford's Wellbeing Research Centre in collaboration with Gallup and the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network, faced backlash across social media.

Netizens questioned the credibility of the index. A user identified as GK pointed out on X: "I wonder what they measure. The suicide rate in Finland is 15.1 per 100k, which is higher than India at 13.4 per 100k. I doubt if happy people love to kill themselves!?"

Another post from Temple Tales read: "Everyone knows that India is a land of happiness; every day here is a festival."

A post by Ravi Tiwari suggested reading the Happiness Index from bottom to top for a more accurate picture. Another handle listed countries using the highest number of antidepressant pills per 1,000 people, and India was not in the list at all.



CITY IN FULL BLOOM

Bengaluru is in the middle of its 'pink season' with the Tabebuia rosea (pink trumpet tree) in full bloom | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Factory owner murdered over financial dispute

Bengaluru: A 52-year-old factory owner was hacked to death by a man and his son over a financial dispute on Sunday afternoon. The incident occurred near Kadabagere Cross on the outskirts of Bengaluru in Madanayakanahalli police limits. The deceased has been identified as Ramesh (52), the owner of RR Industries. Sources said Syed Taj and his son Syed Ayub had taken an advance payment from Ramesh, promising to provide mess services for the warehouse. However, they neither came to work nor returned the money, leading to repeated arguments. On Sunday afternoon, a quarrel broke out over the issue, during which the father-son duo attacked Ramesh with a machete, killing him on the spot.

Youth attacked for helping girl in love

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

A YOUTH was brutally attacked by a girl's family for allegedly supporting her love affair in Hunsur on Sunday. His elder brother, who tried to rescue him, was also assaulted.

According to the police, Ghanvanth, a resident of Shravanahalli village under Bilikere police station limits, was targeted by Cheluvaraju and his associates after he was accused of encouraging Cheluvaraju's daughter Lakshmi's relationship with a young man from the same village.

After learning about the affair, Cheluvaraju physically assaulted Ghanvanth, blaming him for supporting his daughter. A reconciliation meeting was later held with village leaders, but Cheluvaraju continued to attack Ghanvanth whenever he encountered him. Meanwhile, he forcibly got his daughter married to a distant relative.

On Saturday, while Ghanvanth was riding his bike, Cheluvaraju and his group attacked him again. His elder brother Yashwant, who rushed to his rescue, was also beaten up. Both brothers were admitted to hospital and later, a complaint was filed at Bilikere police station. A case was registered against 10 people, and police are investigating.

CRIME PATROL

Another dies in Huskur chariot collapse

Bengaluru: The death toll in the 150-foot-tall chariot collapse on Saturday rose to two, after a 16-year-old student succumbed to injuries on Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Jyoti. Police said the incident occurred during the Huskur Jatre (fair) at the Madduramma Devi Temple festival in Huskur. Jyoti was critical injured in the incident, but succumbed to injuries on Sunday. The chariot reportedly collapsed due to strong winds. The Hebbagodi police have registered a case.

5 teams formed to nab realtor's murderers

Bengaluru: Five special teams have been formed to nab the killers of real estate businessman Lokanath Singh on Saturday evening. Singh's gunman and close associates are being questioned by the police. The incident took place in an isolated area of BGS Layout in Soladevanahalli police limits around 5.30 pm. Singh was stabbed inside his SUV car during a party. The attackers stabbed him in the neck and other parts of the body before fleeing the scene. The police are analysing CCTV footage and call data records to track down the attackers.

Man arrested for injuring 2 policemen

Bengaluru: A 33-year-old man was arrested by Magadi Road police for injuring two policemen conducting a routine vehicle check near near Chord Road on March 3. The accused, identified as Mahadeva Swami alias Ramachari, a glass business owner from Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, KP Agrahara, was driving a car when Head Constable Dhareppa signalled him to stop. Instead of complying, he accelerated, attempting to run over the policeman, who narrowly escaped by jumping aside.

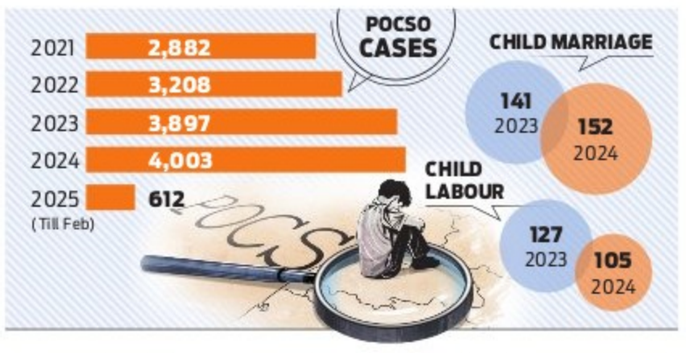
'Child marriage has sanction from society'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

RECENTLY, children have become more aware of child marriage, abuse and assault because of initiatives like "Tereda Mane" (open house). However, child marriages remain prevalent in suburban and rural areas, often driven by family fears and societal pressures. A shortage of girls has also led to young girls being married off within family circles, he added.

He noted that most child labour victims come from other states, though some local children are also pushed into work. "Some parents send their children to school but struggle with additional expenses, so they push the children to work," he said, suspecting that most victims of child labour from other states are brought through human trafficking network.

Rajalaxmi Ankalagi, a senior advocate and activist, said child marriage is a social evil, while



cases under POCSO are criminal. "The child marriage, despite being illegal, has sanction from society to some extent. Though the child is not mentally prepared for the marriage, they will eventually get adjusted with the circumstances, sometimes at the cost of their own childhood. But POCSO is altogether a different area. The abuse, trauma and torture inflicted on the tender minds of children leave deep scars on their mind as well as their personality. It is known that most abuses on children are not reported, be it for the fear of social stigma, police interrogation or lengthy judicial proceedings. When someone dares to take action on the culprits, the apathy and faulty investigation by police in most cases yields no result."

The psychological counselling for the victim should be made compulsory so that the fear, stigma and trauma of the child can be reduced, she added.

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II AT BANGALORE

Original Application No.623/2024

CANARA BANK, Koramangala Branch ...Applicant

Versus

Mr. Altap Ibrahim Shaikh and Others ...Defendants

SUMMONS /NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT 1993, BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

To, Defendant No. 1,2, 4 ,5 and 6

Mr. Altap Ibrahim Shaikh S/o. Ibrahim A Shaikh, aged about 30 years, R/at : Flat No. 301, Millennium Residency, Jakkur Layout, Jakkur, Bangalore - 560 064.

Mrs. Nazeema Altaf Shaik, W/o. Mr. Altap Ibrahim Shaik, R/at: Flat No. 301, Millennium Residency, Jakkur Layout, Jakkur, Bangalore - 560 064.

M/s. S2 Homes, Represented by its Partners (5 &6) at No. 824, 1st Floor, 20th A Main, Koramangala, 8th Block, Bangalore - 560 095.

Sri Chetan Kumar, Partner of M/s. S2 Homes, At : No. 824, 1st Floor, 20th A Main, Koramangala, 8th Block, Bangalore - 560 095.

Sri Vikas B. Kukreja, Partner of M/s. S2 Homes, at : No. 824, 1st Floor, 20th A Main, Koramangala, 8th Block, Bangalore - 560 095.

Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debt and Bankruptcy Act 1993 against you for recovery of a sum of **Rs.1,43,75,657/-** (Rupees One Crore Forty Three Lakhs Seventy Five Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty Seven Only) mentioned therein together with current and future interest and other reliefs. The above defendants are therefore, hereby directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or through authorised agents in support of their defense within 30 days from the date of publication or on **24.04.2025 at 10.30 am** as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal, on this the **19.03.2025.**

Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -II, Bangalore

Advocate for Applicant Bank
Mrs. Malini Vinay

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LIC HFL LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD

1st Floor, Jeevan Managal Building, Hayes Road, Bengaluru -560025. Ph.: 080-43003651

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Office of the M/S, LIC Housing Finance Limited the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of security Interest(enforcement) Rule 2002 issued demand notice on below mentioned date calling upon the borrower/guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act with rule 9 of the said rules on below mentioned date.

The Borrower and the public in general are here by \cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with property will be subject to the charge of M/s. LIC Housing Finance Limited for an amount notice mentioned below and interest thereon,

The Borrower attention is invited to provisions of section 13(8) of the said ACT, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets

Name of the Borrower, Loan No & Possession Taken Date	Demand Notice Date	Notice Amount	Description of the Property
Mr. Dayananda K S and Mr. Manjunatha V Loan A/c No. 412000002545 Symbolic Possession date : 20/03/2025	02.09.2022	Rs. 4972797.00	Schedule Property - A : Item No 1 : All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land measuring an extent of 31 (Thirty one) guntas comprised in Sy.No.164/3 of S.Medahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk (duly converted vide Official Memorandum dated :16.12.2008 bearing No.ALN(AS) SR/54/2008-09, issued by the District Commissioner, Bangalore District) and bounded on The East by :Land bearing Sy No.164/2 West by :Land bearing Sy no.72 North by :Land bearing Sy No.164/1 South by :Land bearing Sy No.165. Item No 2 : All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land measuring an extent of 25 (TWENTY FIVE) GUNTAS comprised in Sy.No.165/1 of S.Medahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk (duly converted vide Official Memorandum dated :22.07.2010 bearing No.ALN(ASH) SR/22/2010-11), issued by the District Commissioner, Bangalore District) and bounded on The East by : Land bearing Sy No.172 West by : Land bearing Sy no.72 North by : Land bearing Sy No.164 South by : Land bearing Sy No.165/2 Schedule Property - B : 0.50% undivided share, right, title and interest in Schedule A property measuring about 307.00 Square feet in an undivided state has been agreed to be sold to the purchaser by the Owners/Developers under this agreement. Schedule Property - C : Residential Apartment having E Khatha No.150200102701021163, bearing no.214 situated in second floor of the building ,measuring about 942 square feet of super built up area consisting of one bed room with RCC Roofing, tiled flooring , moulded doors and aluminium windows including proportionate share in common area such as passage, lobbies , staircase, lifts and other areas of common use contained in the residential apartment complex known as "PUSHPAM E TOWN" constructed on the Schedule A Property with one covered car parking space exclusively earmarked for the sole use and enjoyment of the PURCHASER, built according the plan approved by Anekal Planning Authority vide its order No. CC/526/2013-14, dated 30.10.2013 on single site plan approved by Anekal Planning Authority vide its order no.LAO/34/2012-13, bounded on,East by-OTS, West by: Common Corridor, North by: Apartment 210 South by :Common Corridor.
Ms. Rikhadchand Kavitha Loan A/c No. 411800006774 Symbolic Possession Date 20/03/2025	06/12/2024	Rs. 3986811.00	Schedule "A" Property : All that piece and parcel of the immovable properties converted for residential use bearing land Sy.No.8/P1,(Old Sy.No.8), measuring 0 Acre 35 Guntas and Sy No.9/1, measuring 2 Acres 05 Guntas in total 3 Acres situated at Heelalige Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore (Vide Conversion order No.BDS:ALN:)(A)SR44/2005-06, dated 27/04/2005 by the Deputy COmmissioner of Bangalore Urban and APA/LAO/83/2011-12, Dated 14/02/2013 issued by the Town and Country Joint Planning Authority and Director Anekal Planning Authority), together with all the rights, appurtenances or above the surface and bounded by East by:Land belonging to Shambaiah, West by: Road, North by: Land belonging to Muniyappa, South by: Land belonging to Shambaiah and Halla Schedule "B" Property : The 379.353 Sq.Ft.(UDS) undivided right, title and interest in the super built up Area constructed in the Schedule A Property along with proportionate rights in common area, amenities, and car Parking Schedule "B" Property : (Description of the Schedule "C" Property conveyed herein to the Purchasers) All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Flat No.106 in the First Floor situated in Block 2 of the building "Mayur Brundavan" (SLV Brundavan) measuring 915 Sq.ft., consisting of Two Bed Rooms, Kitchen, Vitrified flooring, Main Door, Rooms and Bath doors are finished with flush Doors along with one Car Parking slot in the stilt floor and all other facilities located in the Schedule "A" Property presently comes under the jurisdiction of Purasabhe Chandapura having Khata No.1383/236/B2/106. The aforesaid Apartment bounded on the: East by: Flat No.111. West by: Flat No.103, West by:Flat NO.107, South by: Flat No.105.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 24.03.2025

Sd/- Authorized Officer
LIC Housing Finance Limited

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BJP on Sunday hit out at Congress leader BK Hariprasad for his remarks on PM Narendra Modi over the honey-trap issue. Karnataka BJP president BY Vijayendra said that Hariprasad was resorting to making such statements as he is envious of the PM's popularity. There are many issues within the Congress in Karnataka, he said, adding that the latest is the honey-trap allegation which is further damaging the party

'LACK OF WILL IS ROOT CAUSE FOR INDIA BEING DIRTY'

AS the country gears up for the Swachh Survekshan ranking and Bengaluru's garbage menace becomes a topic of conversation, not just among citizens but in the legislature session too, **Almitra Patel**, member of the Supreme Court Committee for Solid Waste Management, and national expert, Swachh Bharat Mission, says the solution is simple — mixed waste should never go to landfills. In conversation with the editorial staff of the *The New Indian Express*, she says corruption, lack of will and focus in the wrong direction are the root cause of all the problems. The least citizens can do is segregate and manage their wet waste and demand that Bruhat Benglauru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) strictly follows Solid Waste Management Rules 2016. **Excerpts:**

What exactly is the problem with garbage management?
Garbage was never a problem from Vedic times, and till the 1970s, the only waste that came out of homes was kitchen waste (wet waste), highly valued by farmers. Since the 1980s, when plastics came in and people started throwing out non-biodegradables with biodegradables, mixed waste became a problem that cannot be handled.

What is the solution?
The solutions are very clearly spelt out in the Solid Waste Management Rules 2016. There are eight points listing the Duties of Waste Generators (citizens) in Rule 5, and 37 points listing the Duties and Responsibilities of Local Authorities (like BBMP) in Rule 15.

Why is it not being done?
The major problem in waste management today, especially in Bengaluru, is the lack of will to do the right thing. There is countrywide corruption which is keeping India dirty. There is more focus on expensive equipment purchase, instead of simple daily supervision for compliance. The government's focus is wrong.

What should be done?
It is a matter of will. Recently, in Maharashtra, an officer who was posted as Additional Commissioner, Solid Waste, in an 18-lakh population city, ensured in 18 months that zero waste goes to the landfill, and at no extra cost to the municipality. He ruthlessly ensured no collection of mixed waste. This is what Bengaluru and other cities need to do. There is no excuse for mixed waste going to any landfill anywhere in the country. Also, if wet and dry waste are collected on different days, chances of mixing are minimal.

What about transporting garbage?
The problem is countrywide. We are following colonial practices – Britishers weighed collected wet waste for better monitoring. But this works the other way in case of mixed waste. Here you are incentivising the maximising of waste. No contractor will voluntarily help reduce waste going to landfills to zero, and get paid nothing. So the whole system of payment by weight is at the root of what bad practices.

Is there no solution to this?
The same collection and transport contract can be tweaked, and payment done based on households. Suppose there are 1,000 houses giving a tonne of waste a day, instead of paying Rs 6,000 a tonne, you pay Rs 6,000 for 1,000 households. This can be done for new and existing contracts, with annual 5 per cent increase, or as per contract terms. Corruption and the wrong incentivisation of collection and transport is the problem.

What about vacant sites turning into dump yards?
Vacant sites have to be monitored. Penalise adjoining apartments or all those throwing waste, if it doesn't stop after warnings. Urban local bodies have so many weapons in their hands, if they choose to use them for enforcement. There will always be about 5% of any population who, out of defiance or to seek attention, will do the wrong things.

What to do with wet waste?
Wet waste is biodegradable. It can be food or garden waste or anything that can be composted. Biomethanation (biogas) is a solution that can be implemented even on a small scale. Home composting or burying wet waste around trees is another.

With reference to the recent Mitaganahlli issue, is there business potential in waste management?
There is no excuse for 300 trucks of mixed waste going daily to Mitaganahalli for years. We can set a target to reduce mixed waste by 2 per cent every week. If each collection route reduces its mixed waste pickup by just 2 per cent each week, in a year's time it will be down to zero. Once waste is segregated, wet waste goes for composting and different solutions come up. For dry waste management, the country has many waste pickers, waste buyers, aggregators and recyclers, in which up to 2 per cent of urban populations are informally involved. If clean, recyclable dry waste increases, jobs will also increase. No contractor would want to burn fuel to transport waste to Mitganahalli, Mandur, Bidadi or Ramanagara, when they can go three streets away to the nearest waste buyer. That saves fuel and money, including for all taxpayers. Pollution and traffic will also reduce if wet and dry waste management is decentralised.

But waste in the neighbourhood is a concern...
People need to understand that food waste exposed to air will not produce smelly leachate or methane. If waste is airless, it is a problem. If you take a rotten tomato and keep it on a window sill for a week, it will turn into powder in the sun. If you put it in a plastic bag, it will end up being stinky.

EXPRESS Dialogues

Without air, its decomposition generates leachate and methane gas.

How can existing waste be managed in landfills?
Today, waste taken to a dump site is mostly levelled and compacted, making it airless. Instead, while unloading waste, wind-rows can be created which are about 2 metres high and 3 metres wide. This improves exposure of waste to air and reduces the volume of waste, as carbon turns to carbon-dioxide and hydrogen to water. Food waste has around 70 per cent moisture which evaporates as wind-rows heat up.

What's wrong with garbage management in Bengaluru?
The terrible thing is we are looking at quarry pits to dump garbage. This permanently and irreversibly pollutes groundwater. Just as deep divers face increasing water pressure as they go deeper, the same happens with leachate. The liquid in wet waste in deep quarry pits is forced through cracks deep down with increased pressure. That is why globally, it is forbidden to put any waste in fractured limestone areas.

Is BBMP doing enough in terms of waste management?
BBMP does not want to prevent what is happening. It is looking for a cure, like setting up costly STPs wherever villagers complain about pollution. That does not solve the problem. If you visit Kannur lake, which was once beautiful, you can see black leachate pouring in, which is preventable.

Why is there not much effort to treat leachate?
In 2015, there were several quarry pits at Belahalli where garbage was dumped, which led to black water filling adjacent pits. A woman from Mumbai treated these with biocultures and aeration, and within two weeks the dark pools became stink free and light brown. She did it for almost a year but the government agency, which had the contract, refused to pay her without huge bribes. She never got paid and left. Now we are where we are. Officials saw for themselves the success of bio-treatment of leachate contaminated water. But nobody is interested in a low-cost solution. It is much more attractive to put up a Rs 300-crore STP than buy biocultures and treat leachate. At a closed Bagalur site, you can actually see and hear methane bubbling into leachate wells, which are never emptied as intended. Wet waste must be stopped from going to landfills to stop leachate formation.

Can you tell us about biomining?
Bio-mining is a structured waste management process that separates old mixed waste into usable components. Compost mixed with fine soil, known as bio-earth, is used for forestry and non-food crops. Coarser fractions are used for infrastructure like embankments or road sub-grades, while light plastics are blown out and recycled into low-value products. Large, non-recyclable items become Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF), which should be incinerated in cement plants. The process begins with bio-remediation, where waste is excavated, aerated and dried so as to permit screening through different sieves. Bio-mining can reclaim valuable land for permanent waste processing or for parks. Many solutions also exist for treating leachate or sewage-tainted waters with biocultures.

What are health hazards of unattended garbage heaps?
Unattended waste heaps become breeding grounds for flies and mosquitoes, leading to the spread of insect-borne diseases and epidemics. Flies carry harmful bacteria, contaminating food and surfaces, while mosquitoes are responsible for diseases like dengue and malaria. The science is clear — poor waste management directly contributes to public health risks.

Do you think the government is prioritising garbage issue and its health risks?
No, the government's priority is: "How can I make money out of this or that activity, this or that purchase or contract?" There was a solid waste management committee in Bengaluru that I was a member of. The corporation did not like our advice and despite being appointed by the state, the committee was dismantled via email by the Joint Commissioner, who lacked the authority to do so.

What was it the committee recommended?
The committee had flagged how frequent transfers in the waste management body left no room for expertise or continuity. While waste management rules specify what to do, they failed to explain how to do it. A proposed solution was a solid waste management body led by a waste management expert with a five-year tenure. Instead, the government made the Joint Commissioner its CEO, enabling unchecked spending and keeping control in the hands of those benefiting from the system.

What is the role of citizens in reducing waste?
It starts at home. Everyone should begin by keeping food waste and dry waste separate. In apartments and gated communities, residents should collectively compost wet waste in their compound. Every citizen can fulfil duty by segregating waste properly. In every eatery, and at weddings and parties, people should follow waste segregation rules.

Since when did you started working on waste management and how have things changed since?
I retired from my family business in 1991 and got involved in waste management since then. The situation is only getting worse as urban populations increase, plus per capita waste volume rises. Additionally, the demand for convenient packaging is growing.

Indore is considered a successful model for waste management, and officials and politicians also visit the city to study it. If they can, why can't we?
Ask them if Indore allowed even a single commissioner to enter its dumping ground. Not a single commissioner has been permitted to enter. However, some who have gone behind the site have shared photographs of lots of dry waste, including RDF, hidden under soil cover. Activists have also visited all the nearby cement plants, asking if they have received any non-recyclable items. None of them have received any, or the expected quantities.

Kharge calls on Siddu to control honeytrap damage

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@ Bengaluru

WITH the alleged honeytrap attempt on Cooperation Minister KN Rajanna taking fresh twists and turns, AICC President Mallikarjuna Kharge visited Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at the latter's official residence Cauvery, here on Sunday.

Though Kharge maintained it was a courtesy call to inquire after Siddaramaiah's health, there is a possibility that the honeytrap matter was discussed, according to sources. Kharge might have advised Siddaramaiah to order a probe as soon as possible, to control further damage to the party, they added. "He wished to come to my house but I volunteered to visit him as was unwell. It is my duty to inquire about his health," Kharge told reporters. Asked about the honeytrap issue, he said, "Did it happen in Delhi? You ask the leaders here."

But according to sources, Siddaramaiah briefed Kharge about the issue, as Rajanna and his MLC son KR Rajendra apprised him of it. CM's political secretary Govindaraju was also present during the meeting.

"AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge, along with Minister Priyank Kharge, visited my residence, inquired about my health, and wished me a speedy recovery from my knee pain. I am deeply grateful for their trust and care in me," Siddaramaiah posted on 'X'.

Rumours have it that an influential minister in the Siddaramaiah cabinet is allegedly involved in the honeytrap case, and the BJP is trying to capitalise on the issue. This is why Kharge visit Siddaramaiah, sources said.

Rajanna and PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi plan to visit the high command, especially Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, in New Delhi. With Kharge's intervention, they could defer their plan, a source said. Meanwhile, Rajendra has reiterated that he will meet Kharge and AICC general secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal.

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge greets Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at the latter's residence in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

IN AWE

Labour Minister Santosh Lad takes a look at photographs along with Karnataka Media Academy president Ayesha Khanum after the inauguration of 'Focus on News' Photo Exhibition in Hubballi on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Suspension of BJP MLAs undemocratic: Shettar

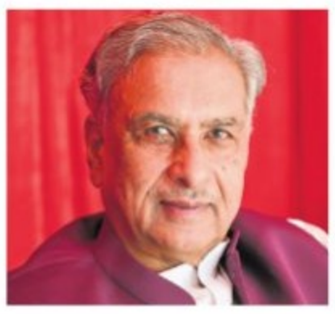
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE suspension of 18 BJP MLAs from the Karnataka Assembly has triggered a political storm, with saffron party leaders calling it "undemocratic" and accusing the Ruling Congress of stifling opposition voices.

Belagavi MP and former chief minister Jagadish Shettar on Sunday criticised the suspension order, stating that the BJP legislators were protesting against the State Government's handling of the 4% quota for minorities in government contracts and the alleged honey-trap issue. He argued that the protest was peaceful and did not target the Speaker's position. "When the government did not respond properly, BJP MLAs started a peaceful protest which surely was not undemocratic. Let me reiterate there was no protest against the Speaker's post. This suspension is undemocratic. I urge the Speaker to withdraw this order, and I call upon Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to take the initiative in revoking it," Shettar said.

Haveri MP and former CM Basavaraj Bommai had accused the Congress government of suppressing democracy. "This is anti-democratic. There is no democracy in Karnataka-only anarchy. Ministers in the government are being honeytrapped, and allegations are being raised against the government itself. The CM is playing from both sides... When we questioned it in the Assembly, our MLAs were thrown out," Bommai said.

However, Karnataka Assembly Speaker UT Khader had defended the suspension, stating that it was necessary to uphold the dignity of the House.



Horatti to resign as chairman, says unhappy with proceedings

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hubballi

LEGISLATIVE Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti has said that he will resign from the post as he is unhappy with the House proceedings in the recent legislature session.

Though he did not blame anyone, he said, "I had decided to resign and had submitted my resignation immediately after the recent session on March 18. However, the resignation was not accepted due to technical reasons. Now, I will put down my papers again on April 1."

Horatti, however, said that he was unhappy with the events that unfolded in the recent session, including members showing disrespect to the chair and suspension of the members. "There should not be any sloganeering or display of banners and placards by members as per norms," he said.

Horatti who was elected Chairman on December 21, 2022. He was also a chairman of the Upper House between February 9, 2021, and May 17, 2022. Prior to this, he was the Chairman between June 21, 2018 and December 12, 2018. Horatti has been a member of the Council for a record 8 times since 1980.

4% QUOTA IN GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: KUMARASWAMY TO CLEAR JDS STAND TODAY

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Janata Dal (Secular), which is in an alliance with Bharatiya Janata Party in Karnataka, is reportedly in a Catch-22 situation as to whether to support the 4% quota for Muslims in government contracts under 2B category or join hands with its alliance partner BJP to oppose it.

The Congress government in Karnataka passed the bill on Friday, providing the quota for minorities, amid strong opposition from BJP.

Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries and former chief minister **HD Kumaraswamy**, who is also JDS state president, is likely to make the party's stand clear in New Delhi on Monday, party sources said. "It is likely that Kumaraswamy will extend JDS support to BJP on the quota bill," said a leader. "It was former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda who ensured a 4% quota to Muslims under 2B for education and employment. But the community has distanced itself from our party in the elections. We will decide on our stand on the latest quota bill after discussions with Gowda and Kumaraswamy on Monday," JDS Legislature Party leader CB Suresh Babu told *The New Indian Express*.

He said JDS will demand that the quota be extended to the backward classes, including Madivala and Uppara communities.

The Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (Amendment) Bill, 2025 to provide 4% quota was passed by the Karnataka legislature on Friday. Terming it a Congress government move to appease the minorities, a delegation of BJP, led by Assembly opposition leader R Ashoka, met Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot and complained that the bill is unconstitutional. JDLP leader Suresh Babu too was part of the delegation.

A resident of Thachanallur in Tirunelveli corporation alleged that he received a one-foot-long non-venomous snake in the drinking water supplied through the corporation's pipeline a few days ago. A video of the incident went viral on Sunday

GRAFT CHARGES

CBI arrests 2 Puducherry PWD officials

ENS @ Karaikal

THE CBI on Sunday seized ₹75.5 lakh of unaccounted cash and arrested two senior engineers of the Puducherry Public Works Department (PWD) and a construction contractor for alleged corruption in the awarding of government contracts. The sleuths had detained several PWD officials, including the suspects, while the latter were meeting with contractors at a private hotel in Karaikal on Saturday and interrogated for over 20 hours till Sunday afternoon.

The arrested persons have been identified as chief engineer M Dhinadayalan (58), executive engineer (buildings and roads) R Chidambaranathan (58) and Ilamurugu, a contractor from Mannargudi in Tiruvarur district.

According to sources, Dhinadayalan was on the CBI's radar over allegations of graft in the awarding of PWD contracts in exchange for financial gains. On Saturday, he visited Karaikal ostensibly to inspect the progress of ongoing civic body works. Later, he went to a private hotel near Karaikal Beach Road, where, along with several PWD officials, he is learnt to have met a few contractors.

Around 2 pm on Saturday, a team of CBI officials entered the hotel and detained the officials. While their interrogation was under way, more CBI teams searched the offices and houses of the chief engineer in Puducherry and of the other officials in Karaikal. Following the investigation, the CBI arrested the trio on Sunday afternoon. According to a statement, CBI said it seized ₹2 lakh cash from Chidambaranathan at the hotel and found ₹50,000 in the contractor's vehicle. During the searches held at the residential properties, the teams seized ₹65 lakh cash from Dhinadayalan's house and ₹8 lakh from the house of Chidambaranathan.

BANDI: KCR, KIN MADE THOUSANDS OF CRORES, LEFT TG DEBT-RIDDEN

Union Minister of State says former chief minister's associates ran counterfeit currency racket

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Karimnagar

LAUNCHING a vehement attack on the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), Minister of State (MoS) for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Sunday claimed that in the past, associates of former Telangana chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao printed counterfeit currency in a printing press in Bidar. This counterfeit currency operation was maintained by a BRS bigwig, Bandi claimed. "Through the passport scam and counterfeit currency transactions, the family earned thousands of crores. However, they left Telangana debt-ridden," he said.

Bandi Sanjay Kumar

K Chandrasekhar Rao

Speaking at a felicitation programme organised by the Telangana Patashala Upadhyaya Sangam for recently elected MLCs, the BJP leader alleged that a police officer recently met him in New Delhi and revealed details about the operation. "When Telangana police tried to shut it down, they were pressured not to do so. The money distributed in the subsequent elections was all counterfeit," Bandi said, adding that Telangana's debt problem was due to KCR and his family members. "During the decade-long BRS rule, everything was destroyed," he said.

'For 15 months, Cong has cheated people'

Taking a dig at the Congress government in Telangana, Bandi said, "People ousted the BRS hoping for a better future and gave power to the Congress. But what changed? For the last 15 months, they have failed to fulfil their promises and have continued to betray the people." Hinting at a nexus between the government and contractors, he said, "In another three months, they may not even be able to pay salaries," he added.

'PROOF?'

BRS DEMANDS PROOF FROM BJP

Karimnagar: Responding to the allegation levelled by Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar, BRS working president **KT Rama Rao** on Sunday challenged the former to substantiate his claims that former chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, his family and pink party leaders printed counterfeit currency in Bidar, Karnataka, and distributed it during various elections as inducements to voters. Addressing a meeting of party workers here, the Sircilla MLA emphasised that the BRS does not take such unfounded accusations seriously and termed the BJP leader's remarks "baseless statements" and "gossip".

EXPRESS READ

PRESIDENT MURMU TO VISIT KANTILO NILAMADHABA TEMPLE TODAY

BHUBANESWAR: President Droupadi Murmu will arrive on a one-day visit to Odisha on Monday. Sources said after attending the silver jubilee of Chhattisgarh Assembly in the morning, Murmu will leave for Odisha and reach Bhubaneswar at around 1.30 pm. From Bhubaneswar, she will leave for Nayagarh and visit the famous Nilamadhaba temple at Kantilo **ENS**

BEAT THE HEAT

With temperatures crossing the 37.5 degrees Celsius-mark in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, young children beat the heat by playing in the Vaigai river on Sunday | KK SUNDAR

TTD budget today, outlay at ₹5,500cr

ENS @ Tirumala

THE Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Trust Board is all set to present its budget for 2025-26 with an estimated outlay of ₹5,500 crore on Monday. The TTD board meeting will approve the revised budget for 2024-25, which has marginally increased from the proposed outlay of ₹5,142 crore, before presenting the budget for 2025-26.

The Hundi collection, a major revenue source of the TTD, is likely to increase to ₹1,750 crore from the last fiscal's ₹1,611 crore.

SC appoints retired judge to settle dispute between mutts over Anegundi Brindavana

RAMAKRISHNA BADSESHI @ Kalaburagi

IN a landmark order to settle a dispute between the seers of Uttaradi Mutt and Raghavendra Swamy Mutt over performing puja and aradhana of Brindavana at Nava Brindavana, situated near Anegundi of Koppal district, once for all, the Supreme Court has referred both the parties for a mediation.

The apex court has requested former SC judge Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul to act as a mediator between the parties. The division bench of the SC, comprising Justices MM Sundresh and Rajesh Bindal, passed the order on March 19 this year and the copy of the order was made available to *TNIE* on Sunday. The SC has asked the parties to maintain the status quo.

A division bench of the Karnataka High Court (Dharwad bench) comprising Justices HT Narendra Prasad and Venkatesh Naik T on December 20, 2024 set aside the judgment of a single judge of the HC Dharwad Bench, restricting Raghavendra Swamy Mutt, Mantralayam to perform puja and aradhana of Shri Jayateertha Swamiji to one of the Brindavanas by identifying it as the Brindavana of Jayateertha Swamiji.

The division bench stated that the single judge's order should continue for three months from December 20 or till the parties obtain necessary order or interim injunction or decree from the civil court whichever is earlier. It meant that the order passed by the single judge restricting Mantralaya Raghavendra Swamy Mutt from performing puja and aradhana to any of the Brindavanas will continue till a Supreme Court order.

Shri Vidyadhishacharya, the general power attorney holder of Uttaradi Mutt, said Uttaradi Mutt welcomes the SC direction for the mediation.

He said Uttaradi Mutt has sufficient evidence to prove that the Brindavana where puja and aradhana are being performed is of Shri Raghuvarya Teertharu and not of Shri Jayateertharu. Brindavana of Shri Jayateertharu is situated at Malkhed of Kalaburagi district, he said. But for the last four years, Mantralaya Shri Raghavendra Swamy Mutt is claiming that the Brindavana is of Shri Jayateeertharu and approached different courts for permission to offer puja to Brindavana.

PUBLIC NOTICE

REVOCATION OF GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY

TO ALL PERSONS, let it be known that, I **Sri. S. Bhuvanesh,** S/o. Sampath Reddy, aged about 60 Years, residing at No.123/3, Ganesh Temple Road, Thyagarajanagar, Bengaluru - 560 028, the undersigned Principal, do hereby REVOKE IN ITS ENTIRETY that certain General Power of Attorney, in respect of my immovable property bearing Survey No.55, measuring to an extent of 2 acre and 4 acre, in all measuring 6 acre, situated at Bellihalli, Yalahanka Hobli, now Yalahanka Taluk, Bengaluru District thereby had appointed **Sri. Raghunath Reddy,** S/o. Ramakrishna Reddy, aged about 61 years, residing at No.133/B, 1st Main, K. N. Layout, Yeshwanthpura, Bengaluru - 560 039 ("the said Attorney") as my Attorney-in-Fact. This revocation of General Power of Attorney shall be conclusively for all purposes, from the date of execution as set forth below.

I **Sri. Bhuvanesh,** S/o. Sampath Reddy, for good cause do hereby revoke cancel and make void the General Power of Attorney therein given and contained for all matters granted to such Attorney-in-fact. Notice of the revocation of General Power of Attorney shall be binding on every person or entity to which a copy of this General Power of Attorney has been served through this public notice. A copy of this revocation of General Power of Attorney shall be effective as an original of all purpose. This revocation of General Power of Attorney may be served via personal delivery, mail, facsimile transmission or the electronic transmission and through this public notice shall be effective regardless in the manner in which same is received. The undersigned absolves from liability of any person who acts in accordance with this Revocation of General Power of Attorney.

This Revocation of General Power of Attorney is executed on this 24th day of March 2025 at Bengaluru

S. Bhuvanesh
Phone: 99805 99955
Place: Bengaluru Date : 24/03/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

REVOCATION OF GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY

TO ALL PERSONS, let it be known that, I **Sri. Yogananda Reddy,** S/o. K. Munirathnam Reddy, aged about 62 Years, residing at No.123/3, Ganesh Temple Road, Thyagarajanagar, Bengaluru - 560 028, the undersigned Principal, do hereby REVOKE IN ITS ENTIRETY that certain General Power of Attorney, in respect of my immovable property bearing Survey No.55, measuring to an extent of 2 acre and 4 acre, in all measuring 6 acre, situated at Bellihalli, Yalahanka Hobli, now Yalahanka Taluk, Bengaluru District thereby had appointed **Sri. Raghunath Reddy,** S/o. Ramakrishna Reddy, aged about 61 years, residing at No.133/B, 1st Main, K. N. Layout, Yeshwanthpura, Bengaluru - 560 039 ("the said Attorney") as my Attorney-in-Fact. This revocation of General Power of Attorney shall be conclusively for all purposes, from the date of execution as set forth below.

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This Revocation of General Power of Attorney is executed on this 24th day of March 2025 at Bengaluru

Yogananda Reddy
Phone: 99805 99955
Place: Bengaluru Date : 24/03/2025

Sri Girisha Veerashyva Vidyavardhaka Sangha (R)
Hiriyur, Chitradurga Dist

APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION LECTURE VACANT POST

Government Order No : 1657143 : DPUE- EST30GG(PHPA)1/2025 Dd :12-03-2025 and EP 09 TPY 2024 dated :12-09-2024

Application are invited for the Grant in aid Post of Physical Education Lecturer Post in **Girisha Pri University College Hiriyur Chitradurga dist**

Sl No.	Name of the post	Education Qualification	Subject	Reservation
1	Physical Education Lecturer Post	M.P. Ed Minimum 50.00%	Physical Education	It is a Single Group Post Reservation rules are not applicable

Interested candidates with requisite Qualification, age etc., as per the Govt. order referred above, may apply with in 21 days from the date of Publication in News paper along with all testimonials to the secretary. Pay and scale is as per Government rules. Demand draft of Rs 1000/- should be taken and submitted in favour of Secretary **Sri Girisha Veerashyva Vidyavardhaka Sangha (R) Hiriyur Chitradurga Dist.** along with application. Another set of Application is to be submitted to the DDPU School Education (Pre University) Government boys Junior College Campus Chitradurga – 577501.

Secretary
Sri Girisha Veerashyva Vidyavardhaka Sangha (R)
Hiriyur Chitradurga Dist

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CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. **E-Mail id :** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Ph :** 0435-2432322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.5,86,87,232/- (Rupees Five Crore Eighty Six Lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Two Hundred and Thirty Two only)** as on **17-03-2025** together with further interest to be charged from **18-03-2025** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) M/s. New Janatha Saw Mill, No.1340, B.M. Road, Rai Channapatna - 562 160. No.2) Mr. Syed Shakil Ahmed, S/o. Mr. Syed Ahmed Pasha, No.1287/23, Yadgar Mohalla, Ward No.29, B Division, Channapatna - 562 160. No.3) Mrs. Afrin Nikkath, W/o. Mr. Syed Shakil Ahmed, No.1287/23, Yadgar Mohalla, Ward No.29, B Division, Channapatna - 562 160. No.4) M/s. Janatha Timber Traders, No.108/104, Karemegala Doddi, Channapatna (Tk.), Ramnagara (Dist.) - 562 160. No.5) Mr. Syed Shafiq Ahmed, S/o. Mr. Syed Ahmed Pasha, No.1287/23, Yadgar Mohalla, Ward No.29, B Division, Channapatna - 562 160. No.6) M/s. G.A. Construction, No.1520-C, MBC Complex, Nizam Chowk, Channapatna - 562 160. No.7) Mr. Saheb Miyan, S/o. Mr. Mahaboob Miyan, No.1023, M.G.Road, Kulumbudi, PWD Circle, Channapatna - 562 160. No.8) Mrs. Rohina Banu, W/o. Mr. Saheb Miyan, No.1023, M.G. Road, Kulumbudi, PWD Circle, Channapatna - 562 160. No.9) Mrs. Wajeeha Banu, W/o. Mr. Mahaboob Miyan, No.1023, Uppar Daira, Near Jamiya Masjid, M.G. Road, Ram Nagare - 562 160.**

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank
Schedule - B: (Property Owned by Mr. Syed Shafiq Ahmed, S/o Mr. Syed Ahmed Pasha)

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Sy.No.56/2, measuring 0.06 Guntas situated at Tattekere Village, Kasaba Hobli, Channapatne Taluk, Ramnagara. Bounded on: East by - Road, West by - Sy.No.61/2, North by - Private Property, South by - Magadum Sa Property.

Schedule - C: (Property Owned by Mr. Syed Shafiq Ahmed, S/o. Mr. Syed Ahmed Pasha)

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Sy.No.61/2, measuring 0.22 Guntas situated at Tattekere Village, Kasaba Hobli, Channapatna Taluk. Bounded on: East by - Road, West by - RT Narayanaswamy Property, North by - Private Property, South by - Magadum Sa Property.

Reserve Price: Rs.1,40,00,000/-
(Rupees One Crore Forty Lakh only) (For Schedule - B & C)

RE-AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
16-04-2025	City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru - Ramanagara Branch, B.M. Road, 316 I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural - 571 511. Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No.9379511195.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale:
(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch, B.M. Road, 316 I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural - 571 511. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No.9379511195. (5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 21-03-2025 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.**0435-2402322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746, **Website:** www.cityunionbank.com

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD
O/o Chief General Manager (Engg), Transmission Circle, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-500004, TG.

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

'e'-Tender No. & Date	Name of Work	Ranging (approx.)	Bid document download start date
EP No. 99 2nd Call/ 100 2nd Call/ 101 2nd Call/ CGM(E)/ TC/ T3 / Trans.Div.III/ Puttamgandi/ 2024-25, Dtd: 22.03.2025.	T, E, T&C of 33/6.6 KV electrical substation including existing 4 no of 3150KVA power transformer to feed the power supply to emergency pumping arrangements at foreshore of Nagarjuna Sagar near Puttamgandi including 4 months MoM for Substation, dismantling and transportation of all equipment to K'Pur, N'Pally and G'Kondla under Trans. Div.III, Sahebnagar.	Rs:155.10 Lakhs Rs:149.01 Lakhs Rs:164.43 Lakhs	24/03/2025 @ 2.00 PM
	T, E & C of existing 6.6KV, 300HP, BHA 700H pump sets, 600HP Submersible Pump Sets near Puttamgandi including MoM of pumping station for 4 months and dismantling and transportation of all equipment to K'Pur, N'Pally and G'Kondla under Trans.Div.III, Sahebnagar.		
	R, T & Comm of 33/6.6KV, 2500KVA PTR S,D,I,T & Comm. of motor starters, Providing of Gabions and formation of bund across the approach main canal to maintain required level in canal for emergency pumping arrangements at foreshore of Nagarjuna Sagar near Puttamgandi and also dismantling and transportation of all equipment to K'Pur, N'Pally and G'Kondla under Trans.Div.III, Sahebnagar.		

The Tenderers are requested to upload the information on the Zip format preferably. Further details can be seen on **www.eprocurement.gov.in.**

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Engg), Transmission Circle, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-04, TG.

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE of PIGEON APPLIANCES PRIVATE LIMITED (in LIQUIDATION)

CIN: U31909KA2003PTC031896 Reg. Office: NO. 28, 1st Floor, Arehalli Village Uttarahalli Hobli, Near Maruthi Garments, Bangalore – 560061, Karnataka. Email: paplcliquidator@gmail.com, ipkpraju@gmail.com.

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER COMPANIES ACT, 2013.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general under Companies Act, 2013 and the Winding Up Rules, 2020 made thereunder that the Company-Assets of the PIGEON APPLIANCES PRIVATE LIMITED (in Liquidation) ("Company") is being proposed to be sold on "Mode of Sale" Basis under Regulations 32 (a) to (f) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process Regulations), 2016 on **"AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATEVER THERE IS" AND "WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS"** through e-auction platform. The said proposition for disposition is without any kind of warranties and indemnities.

The bidding of the assets stated in the below table shall take place through online e-auction service provider, Auction Tiger website https://ncltauction.auctiontiger.net/

Site Visit/Inspection, Submission of Requisite Forms, Affidavits, Declaration etc., by the Prospective Bidder.	From 24-03-2025 To 16-04-2025.
Last Date for Submission of EMD.	21-04-2025 by 5:00 PM.
Date and Time of E-Auction with unlimited extension of 5 minutes for incremental bids	24-04-2025 10 A.M. To 5 P.M.

Sl.	Following Group/Lot of Assets Available for Sale in E-Auction	Reserve Price (INR) (in Lakhs)	EMD (INR) (in Lakhs)
	Movable Assets situated at Office: NO. 28, 1ST FLOOR, AREHALLI VILLAGE UTTARAHALLI HOBLI, NEAR MARUTHI GARMENTS BANGALORE – 560061	22,93,500.00	2,29,350.00

The Brief Particulars of sale are as follows:

The E-Auction will be with unlimited extension of 5 minutes for incremental bids. The BID Increment amount is Rs.5 Lakhs for Sl.No.1.

Interested applicant may refer to complete E-Auction Process Information Document containing details with respect to e-auction Bid Application Form, Declaration and Undertakings, Other Forms, Terms and Conditions with respect to the sale of assets and its online auction sale available on the e-auction platform AUCTION TIGER via website https://ncltauction.auctiontiger.net/ and also on the website of the Corporate Debtor at https://www.papliqn.in.

The schedule of Payments for the successful bidder shall be as under:

IBBI (Liquidation Process) Regulation 33 Schedule-I Mode of Sale states that Balance Sale Consideration shall be paid before 90 days. However, the payment of balance sale consideration after 30 days from the date of declaration of successful bidder shall attract interest at the rate of 12%. Provided further that the sale shall be cancelled if the payment is not received within ninety (90) days.

The Liquidator has the right to accept or reject or cancel any bid or extend or modify any terms of the E-Auction at any time without assigning any reason. For any query regarding e-auction bidding, Contact: 079-68136880/ 881/ 837/ 842 Email - support@auctiontiger.net or can be obtained through an email at- ecliquidation@gmail.com or contact – 9426328298 and for asset / sale related issues please contact Mr. Konduru Prasanth Raju, Liquidator at +91-9980591019 or e-mail at paplcliquidator@gmail.com.

Sd/-
KONDURU PRASANTH RAJU,
Company Liquidator in the matter of
PIGEON APPLIANCES PRIVATE LIMITED
(in Liquidation),
Reg. No. IBBI/IPA-002/IP-N00708/2018-2019/12200.

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IS PAKISTAN A TRAIN WRECK WAITING TO HAPPEN?

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DECODED BY
NEENA GOPAL
IN CONVERSATION WITH EXPERTS

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Form No. INC-26

[Pursuant to rule 30 the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014]
Before the Central Government
Regional Director- Southeast Region
In the matter of Section 8 of Companies Act, 2013 and rule 20 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014
AND
In the matter of **EDUTECH NTTF INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN: U74140KA2007PTC042217)** having Registered Office at No. 23/24, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Area Bangalore-560058, Karnataka, India **Petitioner**

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra-ordinary general meeting held on Thursday, March 20, 2025, to enable the company to convert from Private Limited to a Company not for profit under Section 8 of the Companies Act 2013.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed conversion of Private Limited to a company not for profit under Section 8 may deliver **either on the MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint form** or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director at the address – 3rd Floor, Corporate Bhawan, Bandlaguda, Nagole, Tattiannaram Village, Hayat Nagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Hyderabad-500068, Telangana, within fourteen days of the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

For and on behalf of the Applicant
EDUTECH NTTF INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
Address: No. 23/24, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Area, Bangalore-560058, Karnataka, India
Date: 20/03/2025 Sd/-
Place: Bangalore **Director**

EDITORIAL

As many languages you know, as many times you are a human being — Tomas G Masaryk

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

ADDRESS CONCERNS OF DELIMITATION, ENSURE TRANSPARENCY, FAIRNESS

THE meeting Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin hosted in Chennai presented the first structured opposition to the proposed delimitation exercise and raised some relevant questions. Formed to fight the perceived unfairness of the whole exercise, the Joint Action Committee (JAC) comprising leaders from different states and parties, including four chief ministers, demanded a freeze on parliamentary seats for another 25 years. They argued that the exercise, if conducted now, would punish the states that had effectively implemented population control measures. They were concerned that delimitation could lead to the centralisation of power and undermine India's federal character. The leaders wanted the freeze on population-based delimitation to continue as the goal of national population stabilisation was yet to be achieved.

The argument is not without merit. Delimitation would increase parliamentary seats. However, it is expected to reduce the proportional representation of southern states in Parliament as some northern states, with a less-than-impressive performance on the population front, may benefit more from the exercise. There is a feeling that developed states, including all the southern states, are being punished for their achievements as their share in the central tax pool has shrunk under the Centre's devolution strategy of extending a financial helping hand to less-developed states. Southern states fear delimitation would lead to a situation where their rightful share of funds and political voice to demand them simultaneously diminish.

However, delimitation is an overdue exercise. The average number of voters per constituency in the 2024 general elections was about 18 lakh, nearly five times what it was in 1951. Two seats, Malkajgiri in Telangana and Bangalore North in Karnataka had more than 30 lakh registered voters. Theoretically speaking, smaller constituencies are better for administration. Besides, implementing the 33% women's quota in Parliament and Assemblies is linked to the pending population census and subsequent delimitation. Any delay would further drag the process of improving women's representation in elected bodies. Under the circumstances, finding the middle ground, rather than putting off the process, is of the essence. The government should ensure transparency and strive for national consensus. Numbers can be misleading. So, ground realities must be taken into account. What is important is to arrive at a fair process that does not add to the sense of alienation that the southern states are feeling.

WELFARE PUSH IN TN BUDGET, BUT CUT DEBT

THE Tamil Nadu budget comes across as balanced. The fresh numbers suggest the state has managed to curtail fiscal deficit and enhance capital expenditure, although not significantly. The ruling DMK that believes in economic parity and social justice has continued with its welfare measures, sticking to the theme of 'everything for everyone', but refrained from any big-bang announcements ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections despite it being the government's last full budget. The only deviation is the scheme to provide 20 lakh college students with a tablet or laptop over the next two years.

The FM's renewed confidence stems from a 14.6% projected growth in the state's tax revenue (SOTR) at ₹2,20,895 crore, thanks to a revision in taxes and efficiency in collections and the Centre's nod to fund phase two of Chennai's metro rail project. The bleeding electricity distribution company, a traditional drag on the exchequer, has reported improved revenues due to tariff hikes. The state's capital expenditure is projected at ₹57,231 crore, an increase of 22.4%. A steady hike in the proportion of capex to net borrowings signifies TN's eagerness to create new assets. On the flip side, FM's promise to cut the fiscal deficit to 3% steeply from 3.26% last fiscal, as mandated by the Centre, may require special attention.

Amidst the ongoing fight against Hindi imposition and the three-language policy, TN has decided to showcase its culture and heritage to the world. FM has made many announcements, including new archaeological excavations in eight locations, setting up the Indus Valley Cultural Gallery in Chennai, Agaram--Museum of Languages in Madurai, and the annual World Tamil Olympiad competition. There were other declarations, too, including a Semiconductor Mission-2030 and industrial parks in Tiruchy, Madurai, Pudukkottai, Cuddalore, and Thanjavur districts to tackle intra-state disparities, and a Knowledge Corridor in Hosur. With many state-run universities in deep financial crisis, the block grant to them stands enhanced to ₹700 crore. Debt may not necessarily be bad, but too much debt can strain the state exchequer. Some state governments have focused on slashing their debt burden. For instance, Maharashtra and Gujarat, two other industrialised states, have slashed their debt to GSDP ratio way below TN's 26%. Given its enormous size of ₹9,29,959 crore, Tamil Nadu should seek ways to tackle its debt pile.

QUICK TAKE

LIVE AND LET LIVE

A father drowning two minor sons and killing himself in Andhra Pradesh was so gruesome. He didn't have financial or familial worries. He couldn't bear the thought of his children struggling in life later because of their poor academic records. The eldest was in Class 1. Last November, a father in Bengaluru killed his son for skipping classes. These are extreme cases, but one is too many. Parental desire for their children to excel is taking a toll on both. Parents need counselling to avoid self-stress. Friendly parenting, where collaboration with children replaces imposition to set realistic academic goals, is the key.

Republican legislators find that the new efficiency department's actions are not universally popular. The US courts have already begun disallowing cancellation of contracts and terminations

DOGE THE ACCELERANT IN AMERICAN DECLINE

SATYAJIT DAS — Former banker and author

SOURAV ROY

THE acronym for the new US Department of Government Efficiency, DOGE, was historically the chief magistrate of Venice or Genoa. The phonetic 'dodgy' is defined as dishonest, likely to fail, or causing problems or pain. DOGE's plan to reduce waste is being run in imperial fashion by the multi-skilled super 'genius' Elon Musk and is likely to fail with significant collateral damage.

The government's revenue and spending are around $5.5 trillion and $7 trillion, respectively. DOGE is targeting expenditure cuts of around $2 trillion. It claims to have cut $100 billion, although real savings may be only $2-$10 billion. Eliminating 25 percent of federal employees saves 1 percent and terminating USAID only 0.6 percent. Meaningful spending reductions require politically toxic cuts to defence, social security, Medicare/Medicaid, veterans' benefits, defence, and interest payments, constituting 75 percent of federal spending.

The cuts ignore the costs of DOGE actions. Cancelling contracts incur payment for completed work and penalties. Fired workers get termination payments. At around $1,00,000 per head, $7.5 billion is the cost of 75,000 employees taking deferred resignations against annual savings of $11.6 billion if they are not replaced—unlikely if they perform essential tasks.

The plan won't reduce the budget deficit and debt. Extending tax cuts, eliminating taxes on social security, tips and overtime, and reinstating state and local tax deductions will reduce revenues by around $900 billion annually. Over the next decade, the deficit may rise from $2 trillion to $3.6 trillion due to rising payouts for social security, aged care, and health care. Where once five workers financially supported every retiree, there are now three, which will eventually be two.

DOGE's corporate restructuring approach misunderstands the public sector's challenges. Businesses focus on profit maximisation and shareholder returns, whereas the government must balance security, growth, living standards, justice, and values. Businesses operate within defined product-market structures, picking and choosing activities. In contrast, governments must manage in a complex environment shaped by domestic and foreign factors, many of which they don't control or influence, requiring effective cooperation across constituencies and countries. Many state activities are driven by the absence or failure of market-based solutions.

Earnings and share prices provide a reasonable measure of the effects of business decisions. The success or failure of government choices is less quantifiable as the benefits of infrastructure, education, and welfare are complex and can take decades to become evident. DOGE's education and research spending cuts risk undermining long-run US competitiveness. Businesses can avoid the broader impact of decisions to reduce workforce, shift production overseas, seek subsidies or minimise taxes. The state effectively deals with unemployment, income support, retraining, and social damage. There is no such safety net for government decisions. Government time horizons must, of necessity, be longer than those businesses follow.

With limited accountability, corporate managers wield extensive power, controlling their organisations through threats (dismissal) or rewards (remuneration or promotion). Government actions require legislative body support and are restricted, at least in theory, by the separation of powers, restraints on executive or governmental action and international obligations. Governments cannot fire legislators and traditionally face significant barriers in rewarding or replacing public servants.

DOGE cannot lawfully change spending already legislated or alter executive spending authority without Congressional amendment to existing laws or passing new legislation. Implementation requires negotiations and engineering consensus with factions within one's party and opposing politicians, supporters, funders, and the bureaucracy. Republican legislators are finding that DOGE actions are not universally popular with constituencies with the power to vote them out of office. Courts have already begun disallowing cancellation of contracts and terminations.

Execution of government decisions is complicated. Deep domain knowledge is a prerequisite. DOGE staff seemingly lack the necessary knowledge and understanding of the constitution and legislation, government accounting, and systems. The cuts in public sector employees may hamper the administration's much-touted tariffs and deportation, which are labour-intensive and require extensive documentation.

The identified factors suggest few cost savings. The US government spending hit new highs in February 2025, underlining this. So, what are the US administration's real objectives?

One interpretation is that DOGE's actions are surrealist theatre or performance art, giving the appearance of achievement but really activities to please the President's MAGA base. They distract from failures to end the Ukraine war in 24 hours, reduce prices, boost economic activity, improve living standards, and increase wealth.

The other is more worrying. DOGE and Musk could be Trojan horses for dismembering government capabilities and decreasing regulatory constraints on business. Actions to date have significantly weakened bodies responsible for oversight and enforcing legislation. This would allow interests associated with the President to loot the nation. The Trump family and businesses have already sought to monetise their brand, for example, through investment and trading in cryptocurrencies. Continued business support suggests that DOGE's cuts may be a precursor to privatising some public services. The relevant parallel is Russia in the 1990s when the West pressured an ineffective government to sell off state assets at bargain prices, benefitting some oligarchs.

Elon Musk purchased his role with $250 million in campaign contributions and enjoys extraordinary authority without being elected and having no Senate confirmation. Despite palpable conflicts of interest, he is well positioned to maintain and expand government contracts for his businesses, such as SpaceX and X. He may leverage access to confidential data and proprietary government software to advance his business interests in areas like AI and disadvantage competitors. Some DOGE measures have resulted in shutting down investigations of Musk-related businesses.

Without strong congressional resistance and an administration willing to ignore court orders, DOGE may indicate a deeper shift—the US becoming a powerful, wealthy, but failed state. *(Views are personal)*

THE ANCIENT TALE BEHIND POPULAR AYURVEDIC REMEDY

RENUKA NARAYANAN — FAITHLINE

HAPPY Ugadi, Gudi Padwa, Cheti Chand and more in advance, dear readers. These regional New Years are celebrated in Chaitra, the first month of the Indian calendar. Similar festivals like Vishu, Putthandu, and Baisakhi will soon follow.

Each festival has its special dishes, and one of the most interesting is the medicinal neem-jaggery *pachidi* or chutney eaten on Ugadi and Gudi Padwa. Its roots lie in Ayurveda, where it serves as a seasonal detox and immunity booster. On a spiritual level, the bitterness of neem leaves and the sweetness of jaggery symbolise life's ups and downs. Known as *bevubella* in Kannada, *bevu* (neem) and *bella* (jaggery) are combined with other ingredients, such as raw mango, to make this unique chutney. This seasonal remedy serves a similar purpose to the heavier medicinal compound known as *lehiyam*, eaten during Diwali to improve digestion after indulging in festival sweets and savouries and provide a seasonal tonic to safeguard health. *Lehiyam* is made from coriander, cumin, carom seeds, dried ginger, black peppercorns, jaggery and ghee. It is similar to the highly popular medicinal compound *chyavanaprash* found up North, consumed to boost health and speed up convalescence. And so begins an unforgettable, fascinating tale.

Chyavana rishi was an ancient seer who meditated so intensely that an anthill grew around him, covering him completely. A local king visited the area with his daughter, Sukanya, and entourage. While the men went hunting, Sukanya wandered away from the royal camp and came across the anthill. She noticed two gleaming dots of light shining from two holes next to each other. Were they fireflies trapped inside? The curious princess picked up a sharp twig and poked at the gleam. Alas, they were Chyavana rishi's eyes. Luckily, he wasn't blinded, but it caused him great pain. Furious, he cursed the king's party with discomfort in return. They hurried back to their base camp and found a frightened Sukanya, who confessed to her thoughtless action.

Her father was very angry and saw a way to punish her and make amends to the rishi. He offered Sukanya in marriage to the rishi, both as his companion and servant. Chyavana agreed, and the remorseful princess meekly accepted her fate. Chyavana emerged from the anthill, and the wedding took place almost immediately. The king and his entourage returned home, leaving Sukanya with her aged husband in the forest.

But Sukanya was not a poorly raised princess. Her careless act of childlike curiosity led to these severe consequences, but she was also taught personal values such as dignity, fortitude, and grace. They say she served Chyavana with sincere devotion and, in time, grew very fond of her brilliant, enigmatic husband, who treated her gently and with affectionate respect.

PIXABAY

> The Ashwins took Chyavana rishi to the river and performed a special ritual. They instructed him to bathe in the river thrice. On the third dip, Chyavana emerged as a young, strong, and handsome man. The rishi then created *chyavanaprash* to benefit humanity forever

However, one beautiful spring morning, life took an unexpected turn. Sukanya, as usual, went to the river to bathe. Midway through the bath, she felt hot, devouring eyes watching her. Hastily covering herself, she emerged from the water to be confronted by two extraordinarily handsome men glowing with celestial lustre. They were, indeed, the Immortals—the Ashwin twins, Heaven's healers, blessed with profound and all-encompassing medicinal knowledge.

They outright asked Sukanya to marry one of them. Sukanya replied that she was already married. Trying to escape, she told them her husband was a powerful rishi. The Ashwins let her go but followed her home to Chyavana rishi's ashram. Sukanya went into her *parnakutir* (thatched hut) and told her husband all that transpired.

Chyavana, an astute and all-knowing rishi, had divined the secrets of the cosmos through extended meditation and penance, never crossing the line into black magic or using his divine powers for personal gains. However, he had an idea upon seeing his wife's frightened face. Using his supernatural insight gained from years of meditation, he knew about the politics of *devlok*, the celestial realm. He knew the Ashwins were not entitled to a portion of the havis (sacrificial offering) made by mankind to the great gods, which had long been a sore point with them. So, Chyavana rishi decided to trade power for power to benefit and reward Sukanya for her loyalty and devotion.

He came out to greet the Ashwins pleasantly and offered them a deal. If they, using their powers as masters of medicine, made him young and handsome, he would, in turn, ensure they received a share of the havis and the respect it symbolised.

The Ashwins readily accepted this offer, which fulfilled their dearest wish, and withdrew to consult about Chyavana rishi's transformation among themselves. They returned shortly after and took Chyavana rishi to the river. Once there, they chanted secret spells over him and instructed him to dip himself completely thrice in the river. On the third dip, Chyavana emerged as a glowing, strong, and handsome young man. Sukanya could scarcely believe her eyes when he returned home. At first, she was afraid of him, but with his kind words, he regained her trust.

Soon, Chyavana rishi was invited to conduct a grand sacrifice, during which he offered the Ashwins havis despite Lord Indra's strong objections. Chyavana rishi had his way, and the Ashwins were fully repaid to their eternal satisfaction. The touching outcome of this story is that Chyavana rishi then created the medicinal compound known as *chyavanaprash* to benefit humanity forever, and it continues to do so to this day. *(Views are personal)*

(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Health worries

Ref: *How not to frame work-hours debate* (Mar 23). For creativity to flourish, it is important that the work environment is not too stressful. Recent comments by industry doyens urging youngsters to work longer have sparked debates. I feel, it is unlikely that lengthy working hours would improve productivity. Rather, it could negatively affect the overall health of the employees.

Sachidananda Satpathy, Sambalpur

Step back

Ref: *The need to preserve sacred groves* (Mar 23). For centuries, local communities have protected these groves, which are the last straw for many endangered species. However, the government involvement has often not yielded positive outcomes. It's time to take a step back and let the local communities continue their conservation efforts.

Sridevi Tejaswani K, Kakinada

Chasing returns

Ref: *Delimitation: India needs more MLAs, not MPs* (Mar 23). Politics, sadly, has become an investment in India. After the election, the focus of every MP/ MLA (barring a very few exceptions) would be to reap the returns on their investment before the next elections. Work needed for the welfare of citizens is often pushed to the back.

S Ramakrishnasayee, Chennai

Scrutinise judges

Ref: *CJI forms panel to probe charges against Delhi HC judge* (Mar 23). That no FIR can be registered against sitting judges of high courts without the permission of the CJI, needs to be highlighted here. Justice Yashwant Varma's case highlights the need for more scrutiny on judges.

Jayaprakash Reddy, Nalagonda

Guardrails needed

Ref: *Getting wired for new competition (Mar* 23). Our business landscape is not only becoming highly competitive but it is now a contest for survival of the fittest. Fair competition is good, but there should be guardrails to ensure that the big fishes do not end up not devouring the small ones.

Rajarao Kumar, Bengaluru

Drug menace

Ref: *De-addiction centres overflow in state amid soaring drug abuse* (Mar 23). It is concerning to note that the de-addiction centres in Kerala are overwhelmed amid a spiralling drug abuse crisis. The most disturbing trend is the rising number of addicts below 18. Government agencies, NGOs, and community organisations must work together to address the crisis.

Shaj Koodathil, Mahe

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Nirmala Sitharaman @nsitharaman
The PM Modi govt has taken several initiatives for development of agriculture sector... 'Rural Prosperity and Resilience Plan' to increase employment in the sector

Randeep Singh Surjewala @rssurjewala
The "anti-Haryana" face of BJP has been exposed! The 15th Central Finance Commission and the State Finance Commission have cut ₹2236 crore meant for development of villages

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
A horrific picture from Ballia, where a young girl was tied up, murdered and hung from a tree, is extremely sad... reflects UP govt's neglect towards oppression

Standardised bill for all hospitals soon

Itemised breakdown of all charges incurred by the patient to be mentioned in the bills; BIS has formulated draft

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

THE Centre will soon release a standardised format for hospital bills applicable to all clinical establishments, including hospitals, nursing homes, and diagnostic centres. The format will require them to provide a clear and itemised breakdown of all charges incurred by the patient to ensure greater transparency and uniformity.

If the draft being formulated by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) after it initiated the process last year to standardise and enhance transparency in the billing process at all healthcare centres, gets approval, it is likely to make hospital treatment more consumer centric.

The standard being developed by BIS and the Union health ministry, in consultation with healthcare sector experts, patient advocacy groups and other stakeholders, will help patients get itemised details for all consumables, services, medical facilities, etc.

The draft also prescribes mandatory and optional elements to be included in hospital bills issued by healthcare facilities nationwide.

According to a top health ministry official, a standardised framework for hospital billing has become imperative. "The aim of standardising billing formats across all healthcare facilities is to promote uniformity and reduce discrepancy in billing practices," the official told this newspaper.

"By implementing the standard, healthcare providers can enhance patient trust, reduce billing-related grievances, and contribute to a more transparent and efficient healthcare ecosystem," another official privy to the development said.

The BIS, which comes under the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, set the ball rolling after a survey by LocalCircles, a community social media platform, found that many patients complained about not getting itemised details for consumables, services, and facilities, in their hospital bills. At the same time, many indicated that no details about the charges were mentioned in the bill.

Last year, the Supreme Court also pulled up the Centre for its apparent failure to specify a range of prices that private hospitals and clinical establishments can charge for various treatments and procedures.

In recent years, there have been widespread concerns about lack of uniformity and clarity in hospital billing practices, leading to confusion, disputes, and lack of accountability. "To address these challenges and to promote a patient-centric approach, the need for a standardised framework for hospital billing has become imperative," officials added.

Apart from ensuring transparency in billing practices by mandating clear and detailed disclosure of all charges incurred by patients, the move also aims to provide a clear and itemised breakdown of charges to enable patients to understand the costs associated with their treatment.

A standardised format will facilitate easy understanding for patients and stakeholders by adopting a consistent and user-friendly format.

The idea is also to ensure that every healthcare facility adheres to the same level of accountability and clarity.

According to official sources, summary of charges will include a clear and itemised breakdown of all charges like per day rent, type of room, charges for doctors and specialist consultations, surgery charges, surgeon fees, anaesthesia charges, operation theatre charges, list of all diagnostic tests and their charges, list of medicines dispensed, their quantity, price, batch number and expiry date, medical consumables and disposables, items such as syringes, gloves, catheters, etc., their quantity, price, batch number and expiry date and nursing charges.

Optional elements are likely to be at hospital's discretion and may include details like names, designation of attending doctors, breakdown of surgery/procedure charges, concessions, emergency contact details, blood group, or other relevant medical information, and discounts or concessions.

The standard is also likely to emphasise that medical bills be easily readable, in a large font, generated in English and/or a local or regional language.

Bureau of Indian Standards initiated the process last year to standardise and enhance transparency in billing

UNIFORMITY ON THE CARDS

Centre to announce standardised hospital bill format applicable to all clinical facilities; hospitals, nursing homes, diagnostic centres

Will help in enhancing patient trust, reduce billing-related grievances, and contribute to more transparent, efficient healthcare system

AIM IS TO PROMOTE UNIFORMITY AND REDUCE DISCREPANCIES IN BILLING PRACTICES ACROSS HEALTHCARE CENTRES NATIONWIDE

Health centres may be asked to give clear and itemised breakdown of charges to help patients understand costs of treatment

Widespread concerns about lack of uniformity and clarity in hospital billing practices

INSIDER TRACK

Top Delhi babus to huddle weekly

With a new government in Delhi, a revamped administrative framework is supposedly in place to ensure better coordination among various departments to maintain law and order in the city. A group of senior bureaucrats will now meet every Tuesday to monitor issues that could potentially disrupt city administration. The move follows a high-level meeting chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah to enhance cooperation between the government and Delhi Police. During the meeting, Shah directed cops to take strict action against those aiding Bangladeshi and Rohingya 'intruders' and facilitating their documentation. A Coordination Committee led by the chief secretary has been formed in this regard. Convened by a senior official of Delhi government's home department, the panel will also feature top officials such as the Commissioner of Police, vice-chairman of the Delhi Development Authority, the Commissioner of Municipal Corporation of Delhi, and secretaries overseeing education, public works, transport, and law & justice.

Wedding bells for Nitish's son?

Rumours are swirling that Nishant Kumar, the 48-year-old son of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, is set to enter wedlock this year. Although there has been no official confirmation, sources suggest that the engagement ceremony will take place by end of April. The buzz is, Nishant's bride-to-be works in a government department in the national capital. A JD(U) insider said the wedding has reportedly been arranged by Nitish's elder brother, Satish Kumar. The engagement is expected to take place in Delhi after April 15, once the 'Kharmas' period (considered inauspicious in Hindu calendar) ends on April 14, making way for the ceremony. Nishant, born on July 20, 1975, is the only son of Nitish Kumar and his late wife Manju Sinha. A private and religious individual, Nishant has long avoided active politics. However, he recently made a few public appearances, where he expressed support for his father, calling Nitish Kumar Bihar's most capable CM. JD(U) sources believe that Nishant may join politics after the wedding.

MHA fires 'enemy property' officers

Amid allegations of irregularities to the tune of ₹1 lakh crore in management and disposal of enemy properties in the country, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has removed two senior officials – Joint Secretary in the Freedom Fighters & Rehabilitation (FFR) division Anant Kishore Saran and Custodian of Enemy Property for India (CEPI) Rahul Ramesh Nangare – and placed their services at the disposal of the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) for further posting. Kishore is a promoted Central Secretariat Service (CSS) officer and Nangare is a 1999-batch Indian Revenue Service officer. Both were appointed to their respective posts in July and March 2023, respectively, for a period of five years. According to the grapevine in the corridors of North Block, an internal enquiry revealed irregularities in the disposal of enemy properties with few of them found to be registered in the name of relatives of one of the officers. Besides, in a number of dispute cases against the government, disputants hired lawyers who happen to be relatives of the officers.

Tharoor in European company!

At the Raisina Dialogue, Shashi Tharoor admitted to feeling embarrassed for criticising the Indian government's stance on the Russia-Ukraine war when it began in February 2022. He had then opposed India's neutrality, citing violations of the UN charter and Ukraine's sovereignty. However, Tharoor acknowledged that India's policy now puts the country in a unique position with Prime Minister Modi able to engage with both Ukraine and Russia. The policy has meant "India actually has a Prime Minister who can hug both President of Ukraine and President in Moscow two weeks apart and be accepted in both places." While Europe grudgingly agreed to India's position earlier, last week, many of them were seen praising Delhi's stance. Poland Deputy Foreign Minister said Modi is one of the few people who can talk to Putin, and ask him to withdraw forces. However, whether US President Trump played a part in Europe's U-turn, we'll never know.

Centre plans unified job application portal for all recruitments: Minister

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE Centre is considering a plan to create a single 'job application portal' for all government recruitment. The aim behind the portal is to ease the burden on job seekers so that they save time and energy from applying across multiple platforms, Union minister Jitendra Singh said.

Chairing a meeting of the department of personnel and training (DoPT) on Saturday, the minister highlighted the government's commitment to making recruitment more efficient and enhancing governance through technology-driven reforms. During the meeting, Singh instructed officials to establish standards and guidelines for conducting computer-based tests to ensure a fair process for all candidates.

Singh said recruitment exams, held only in Hindi and English before 2014, have been expanded to 13 regional languages, "The average timeline of the recruitment cycle has almost halved from 15 months to 8 months and will be further reduced," the minister said, adding that the 'Rules of Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024' has now been notified.

At the meeting, the minister reviewed the 'Mission Karmayogi', noting that nearly 89 lakh Karmayogis have been onboarded. The National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building or Mission Karmayogi was launched in September 2020 to foster civil servants' capacity building.

He emphasised the importance of capacity building for government employees, focusing on their overall development and increased workplace efficiency. Singh instructed officials to create a repository of good governance practices and amplify them through outreach for other departments to follow. The minister instructed officials to create a repository of 'good governance practices' and promote them through outreach efforts for other departments to adopt.

Highlighting the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in governance, he cited its success in 'CPGRAMS 2.0', an AI-enabled grievance redressal system, underscoring the necessity of continuous digitalisation.

Govt to table Waqf Bill, Cong calls it assault on Constitution

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

AMID speculation that the Centre is mulling tabling of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in Parliament this week, the Congress on Sunday said the proposed legislation is 'deeply flawed' and dubbed it an 'assault' on the Constitution.

Recently, the Union cabinet approved 14 amendments proposed by a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) headed by BJP MP Jagdambika Pal and the Centre made it clear that it is keen on early passage of the Bill, as it will solve many issues of the Muslim community.

In a statement, Congress communications in-charge Jairam Ramesh said the Bill was part of the BJP's 'continuing attempts to damage' the centuries-old bonds of social harmony. It is also part of a bid to 'demonise minority communities' by spreading propaganda and creating prejudices, the opposition party alleged.

Ramesh said the Bill is aimed at diluting Constitutional provisions that guarantee equal rights and protection to all citizens, regardless of religion. "It is part of the BJP strategy and continuing attempts to defame traditions and institutions of minority communities to keep our society in a state of permanent polariSation for electoral gains", he said.

On Sunday, RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale also welcomed the Centre's decision to set up a Parliamentary Committee on Waqf properties to introduce the Bill.

Attacking the government, Ramesh claimed the proposed legislation is deeply flawed for five reasons. He said all the institutions created by previous laws on Waqfs were deliberately reduced in stature, composition and authority to deprive the community the right to administration of its own religious traditions and affairs.

Provisions in the existing law are being removed without any reason to weaken the administration of the Waqfs. Enhanced defences are now being introduced to protect those who have encroached on Waqf lands

Jairam Ramesh, AICC member

Muslim groups up ante, plan nationwide stir

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

STEPPING up its attack against the NDA government and its allies on the proposed Waqf (Amendment) Bill, the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) announced a nationwide movement against the legislation on Sunday. The announcement comes days after a AIMPLB demonstraion in Delhi's Jantar Mantar, which was joined by all major opposition parties.

In a statement, AIMPLB spokesperson S Q R Ilyas said the first phase of the movement will involve sit-in protests in front of state assemblies in Patna on March 26 and Vijayawada on March 29.

Prominent figures from other minority communities and also from Dalit, Adivasi, and OBC sections have also confirmed their participation in the protests, he said, adding, "The aim is to send a clear message to NDA allies to either withdraw support for the Bill or risk losing support of Muslims."

Govt mulls foreign collaboration for DPR preps

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

AS Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari often criticises the "poor quality" of detailed project reports (DPRs), the ministry may actively consider a proposal to allow joint ventures with international companies having a majority stake for preparing the blueprint for effective planning, execution and monitoring of infrastructure development.

According to some sources in the know about the matter, Gadkari chaired a meeting on DPRs earlier this month and discussed bringing in changes in the existing arrangements. "There was a long meeting in which deliberations were held about introducing changes in the system. Suggestions have been taken from the stakeholders," a source said.

The minister reportedly suggested if a project costs over ₹1,000 crore, there should be a joint venture with a foreign company for the DPR, with that company having a 51% stake.

Officials said that the proposal of the international collaborator holding a majority of the stake is meant to prevent Indian businesses, which don't have the capabilities, from taking over such projects.

The minister has reportedly suggested a 49-51% joint venture for DPRs. "He often says that otherwise, local firms will tie up with the companies abroad just to qualify for the bid. The possible change will only allow technically qualified and serious bidders to participate," the source explained.

Notably, Gadkari batted for international partnerships during the Global Road Infratech Summit & Expo organised recently by the International Road Federation's India Chapter in Delhi. He pinned the blame for the high rate of road accidents in the country on civil engineers and faulty project reports. He stressed that a joint venture system could make quality DPRs possible.

He even recommended the registration of an FIR against those responsible for the faulty DPRs for road construction that result in fatal road accidents. "The most important culprits are civil engineers... I am directly taking the name because after 10 years of my experience, I am coming to this conclusion. The most important culprit is who makes the DPR. And there are thousands of mistakes... persons who are responsible, we should register an FIR against them and take them in custody," Gadkari said.

"Our system should be qualitative. We need to reduce the number of accidents. You see what is going to happen in the world," the minister added.

The minister has, time and again, flagged the issue of "faulty" DPRs and blamed them for the delay in projects and road accidents. Gadkari has used different forums to slam the bureaucratic set-up, stating that it takes years to improve or rectify faults in road designs while road mishaps continue to claim lives.

GADKARI FLAGS DEATHS, DELAYS

- Nitin Gadkari time and again flagged the issue of "faulty" detailed project reports and blamed them for the delay in projects and road accidents
- Gadkari even recommended registration of FIRs against those responsible for the faulty detailed project report for road construction that result in fatal road accidents
- The minister suggested if a project costs over **₹1,000 cr**, there should be a joint venture with a foreign company, giving them a 51% stake in the project

House panel seeks to promote top three fruits and veggies in each dist

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

THE Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Food Processing has recommended framing of a scheme to promote top three fruits and vegetables in each state, a move to strengthen the food processing sector.

The parliamentary committee suggests conducting a detailed study and utilising the country's food map to identify the top three fruits and vegetables in each state to achieve the desired growth of the food processing sector.

The committee, led by Charanjit Singh Channi, MP, recently presented the 12th report on the Ministry of Food Processing Industries' Demands for Grants for the year 2025-26 to the Lok Sabha.

The committee also recommended the creation of a subscheme under the 'One District, One Product' (ODOP) initiative to promote top three fruits and vegetables. The Union government has created ODOP to promote products from each district. The scheme identifies district brands and also helps with product development, packaging, branding, and sales improvement, officials said.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Promote top 3 fruits and vegetables in each state to boost food processing industry
- Create quality infrastructure, better opportunities for small and medium enterprises
- Prevent underutilisation of funds to achieve outcomes

The Uttar Pradesh government launched ODOP in January 2018, and due to its success, the Central government later adopted it.

"The committee also recommended creating quality infrastructure, providing better opportunities for small and medium enterprises in the sector to grow, and fostering innovation and competitiveness in the country's food processing industry," an official said.

"The panel was also concerned about underutilisation of funds, which results in non-realisation of the expected outcomes and outputs. The committee urged the ministry to conduct a thorough review of the budgetary estimation process to ensure full utilisation of the allocated funds in the future," the official said.

The panel also raised concern over the growing trend of under-utilisation of funds under the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industries (PLISFPI). It recommended that the ministry address issues hampering the utilisation of funds, officials said.

SWEPT AWAY

A 37-year-old employee of the district administration in Maharashtra's Thane drowned during a picnic at a beach in Raigad on Sunday, an official said. She was reportedly swept away by strong waves.

350 FILMS & WEB SERIES SHOT IN J&K IN LAST 5 YRS: L-G MANOJ SINHA

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	38	23	Mumbai	34	26
Bhopal	33	19	Panaji	34	26
Jaipur	34	22	Patna	41	27
Amritsar	32	17	Lucknow	32	18
Chennai	31	27	Port Blair	32	26
Kolkata	31	23	Imphal	27	13
Srinagar	18	07	Chandigarh	31	16

Vigil intensified after spate of IED detections

Encounter breaks out between terrorists and forces in J&K's Kathua

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

IN a cause of concern for the security agencies, at least four Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) planted by terrorists in the Valley were timely recovered and defused by the forces. Although timely detection of the explosive devices averted major tragedies, security forces have intensified vigil and patrolling across the Valley to foil attempts to trigger violence.

The latest IED was detected and defused by the army's Road Opening Party (ROP) at Sunrise Point along the Bandipora-Srinagar highway in north Kashmir on March 19.

The IED was fitted in a pressure cooker alongside the Srinagar-Bandipora road, which is used by security convoys for movement to Gurez Valley along the Line of Control and other frontier areas.

It was the fourth IED to be detected and defused by security personnel in the Valley within a week. Earlier, on March 16, the forces during patrolling detected an IED planted by militants in the forest area of border district of Kupwara near the LoC in north Kashmir.

The bomb disposal squad were rushed to the spot and they neutralised the device, averting any major incident.

A day later, another IED was detected and defused in the Qaimoh area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district. The IED was detected by a security forces patrol team during routine patrol and later experts defused and neutralised the device.

On Tuesday, security personnel during routine patrol detected an IED in the Habdipora area of Shopian in south Kashmir district.

An official said the security apparatus, especially the vigil across the Valley has been beefed up after recovery of IEDs. "Security personnel and ROPs have been instructed to be alert and thoroughly sanitise the area before plying of security convoys," he said. "Security personnel have also increased patrolling in some sensitive areas in the Valley and along the highway".

A fierce encounter broke out between a group terrorists and security forces in Hiranagar area in Kathua district on Sunday evening. Sources said a joint team of forces launched a search operation in Sanyal village after receiving intelligence inputs about the infiltration of terrorists from across the border. The forces intercepted the terrorists. The personnel came under heavy fire from the terrorists, leading to a gunfight. A 7-year-old girl sustained injuries in the gunfight.

HEAD-ON CRASH

3 tourists from Mumbai among 4 killed, 17 hurt

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THREE tourists from Mumbai and a local driver were killed when their cab collided head-on with a passenger bus in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Sunday.

Police said a Toyota Etios carrying the group of tourists crashed into a bus at Gund, in Kangan area. The car suffered severe damage in the crash in which at least 21 sustained injuries. Locals, police personnel and rescue teams reached the scene and helped in shifting the injured to the hospital. They were taken to Sub District Hospital Kangan, where four of them including three tourists and driver of the Etios car were declared as "brought dead".

Kangan Block Medical Officer said three tourists died on spot while the driver succumbed to injuries on way to hospital. He said the condition of two among the 17 injured is critical and 11 have been shifted to Srinagar hospitals for specialised treatment.

The deceased tourists were identified as Hetal Ashish Pari, Nikki Ashish and Leisha Ashish, residents of Borivali West, Mumbai. J&K L-G Manoj Sinha and CM Omar Abdullah have expressed grief over the tragic road accident.

Himanta cancels Class 11 exam after Maths paper leak

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

THE Assam State School Education Board has cancelled Class 11 examinations in the remaining subjects following reports of paper leaks at different places. "The examination of Mathematics subject of the HS First Year Exammaton-2025 was postponed... on the basis of the reports received regarding alleged leakages of question paper," the state board said in an order.

"All Inspectors of Schools and Principals of Lead Colleges had received back the sealed packets of question papers of Mathematics, on the basis of instruction issued by the Board and from their reports, it is seen that some of the institutions opened the sealed packets of question paper on March 20, 2025, whereas the examination was scheduled to be held in the second session of March 21, 2025," the board further said.

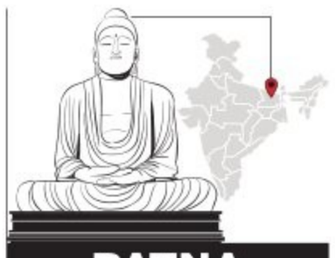
"It is presumed that leakages of question papers in the rest of the examination cannot be ruled out, as all the question papers of remaining subjects are in the custody of each institution of Assam where examination is being held. Therefore, it is decided that the examination of the remaining subjects of HS First Year Exarmnatuon-2025... are hereby cancelled," the statement read

Education minister Ranoj Pegu said the board suspended affiliation of 15 private schools in 10 districts for breaking the seal of Class 11 Mathematics question papers before scheduled time, leading to the leak.

"The state government will take action against 3 provincialised school for violating the rules in a similar manner. FIRs are being lodged, and these schools are barred from admitting Class XI students for 2025-26 (academic session)," the minister added.

Student bodies protest

Demanding an investigation into the alleged paper leak, leading student bodies such as NSUI, SFI, SMSS and AASU slammed the BJP-led Assam government and demanded Pegu's resignation and suspension of state board chief R C Jain. "Will the education minister take responsibility for such anarchy and resign? A high-level inquiry committee should be formed to investigate the matter," a student leader said.



PATNA DIARY

RAMASHANKAR

Our correspondent in Bihar

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Imarat Shariah declines Nitish's Iftaar invite

Perhaps for the first time in his political career, Nitish Kumar faced flak from Muslim organisations; Imarat Shariah declined the Bihar CM's invitation for an 'Iftar party' hosted by the State at the CM's 1, Anne Marg residence on Sunday, citing his support to the Wafq (Amendment) Bill as reason. Accusing Nitish of failure to keep his promise to protect 'rights' of Muslims, Imarat Shariah said with JD(U) lending support to Wafq Bill, Nitish no longer remains a secular leader: This development may come as a rude shock to the JD(U) ahead of the Assembly elections due in October-November.

BJP eyes 3 crore Bihar migrant workers

Celebrating Bihar foundation on March 22 every year is not new. However, for the first time, the BJP decided to celebrate the state's foundation day outside Bihar apparently to woo the nearly three crore Bihari migrant workers ahead of state assembly polls. To that effect, week-long functions are being held at 75 locations across the country. As a major chunk of Bihar migrants live in Delhi, Gujarat, UP, West Bengal, Haryana and Assam, BJP is organising a host of events as part of the week-long 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat Sneh Milan' to gain traction among these people.

Govt expresses concern over Bhatinda violence

The Bihar government has taken a strong exception to the incident in Punjab's Bhatinda where students from the state were attacked recently. Bihar chief secretary Amreet Lal Meena spoke to his Punjab counterpart over reports of attack on students from Bihar at a private university in Bhatinda. Meena said he spoke to Punjab chief secretary over the issue, saying the latter has assured the situation was under control and a strict vigil is being maintained by the concerned authorities. DyCM Samrat Chaudhary demanded the Punjab government provide adequate security to Bihar students. However, attack on native students at a distant state has left Bihar in shock.

Meghwal in Manipur, hopes peace process in state gathers momentum

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

UNION Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Sunday expressed hope that the process to restore peace in the ethnic violence-hit Manipur would progress at a swift pace.

Addressing an event organised to mark the 12th anniversary of the Manipur High Court in Imphal, he said, "I want the ongoing process to restore peace in Manipur to gather momentum. I want that Manipur continues to march ahead on the road of development and help turn the country into Viksit Bharat."

While interacting with the media later, Meghwal noted that though some progress had been made in the process to restore peace in the state, there was a need to move ahead.

"There was a programme of the National Legal Services Authority that I attended. Five judges of the Supreme Court were also in attendance. We said we would fast-track the process to restore peace here," he said.

He lauded the delegation of Supreme Court judges, comprising Justices BR Gavai, Vikram Nath, MM Sundresh, KV Viswanathan and N Kotiswar Singh, for visiting the relief camps in Manipur and meeting with the people staying there.

Addressing a gathering in Churachandpur on Saturday, Justice Gavai had expressed hope that peace would return to Manipur sooner rather than later. "We know that all of you are going through a difficult phase, but with the assistance of everyone — the executive, the legislature and the judiciary — this phase will be over soon," Justice Gavai had stated.

The ethnic violence between Meiteis and Kukis has left around 250 people dead.

Maoists rattled by security ops in J'khand: Soren

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

JHARKHAND Chief Minister Hemant Soren asserted on Sunday that the ongoing operations against Maoists in the state have left the Naxal groups feeling frustrated.

"Maoists are frustrated with the ongoing operations against them in Jharkhand. Regular attacks by the security personnel are an indication of their frustration," said the CM. The campaign against the Maoists will continue, he added.

He made the remarks after paying tribute to a martyred CRPF sub-inspector, Sunil Kumar Mandal, who died after being injured in an IED blast triggered by Maoists in Chaibasa on Saturday.

The sub-inspector of the CRPF's 193 battalion was out on an operation against Maoists with his teammates when an IED planted by the Maoists in the forests falling under the limits of the Chotanagra police station in Chaibasa exploded. He was airlifted to Ranchi for treatment, but he succumbed to his injuries in the hospital.

Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar also paid floral tributes to the mortal remains of the slain CRPF personnel.

'UDTA PUNJAB'

9kg heroin recovered as cross-border drug ring busted in Punjab

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

PUNJAB police on Sunday busted a cross-border drug cartel and a narco-terror module two separate operations and recovered 9.2 kg heroin from their possession. A woman kingpin was arrested in the first operation and a father-son duo, among others, in the second. "Amritsar commissionerate police busted a cross-border drug cartel with the arrest of a woman kingpin, identified as Mandeep Kaur (27), and her three operatives after recovering 5.2 kg heroin from them," DGP Gaurav Yadav said.

Yadav said preliminary investigations revealed that accused Mandeep was in a relationship with a man who introduced her to Pakistan-based smugglers. "Accused Mandeep's ancestral house is located in border village Khalra in Tarn Taran, about two kms from the fencing of the Indo-Pak border," he said, adding that the probe has also uncovered that Mandeep would occasionally don a police uniform for smuggling. Amritsar police commissioner Gurpreet Singh Bhullar said a case has been registered under sections of the NDPS Act.

In the operation against the narco-terror module, a father-son duo and two others were arrested in Amritsar and 4 kg heroin was recovered from them. The accused were allegedly in contact with Pak-based smugglers and recently retrieved a drug consignment from Attari.

Drug lord accused of killing Moosewala shifted to Silchar jail

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

GANGSTER-DRUG LORD Jagdeep Singh alias Jaggu Bhagwanpuria, also accused in the killing of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, was on Sunday shifted to the Silchar jail in Assam from the Central Jail at Bathinda after he was detained by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) under the stringent anti-narcotics law.

He is the first Punjab gangster to be detained under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Physchotropic Substances (PIT-NDPS) Act, officials said.

NCB officials took custody of the gangster, who was in the custody of the Punjab Police in connection with the Moosewala murder, and took him on a flight from Chandigarh to Silchar via Delhi and Kolkata.

Hailing from Bhagwanpur village in Gurdaspur district, the gangster is involved in cross-border narcotics and arms smuggling. "He is involved in 128 cases, including high-profile murder cases, extortion, Arms Act and 12 cases under the NDPS Act, since 2012. His criminal syndicate facilitated smuggling of heroin, opium, psychotropic substances and illegal arms," NCB officials said. Bhagwanpuria, who has repeatedly orchestrated crimes from inside high-security Punjab jails was moved out of the state as he had "established links" with operatives in the US, Canada and Pakistan.

AHEAD OF BIHAR POLLS

Concerned with Nitish health, says Pawan Khera

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

ALL India Congress Committee media cell and publicity incharge Pawan Khera on Sunday launched a blistering attack on the Nitish Kumar-led NDA government in Bihar over the deteriorating law and order situation in the state. Khera said Bihar was witnessing "significant turmoil" on Nitish's watch.

He cited the recent killings of two cops in the state to sharpen his attack: "These incidents are enough to prove that the law and order situation has worsened to a great extent in the state, and residents feel unsafe now."

With Assembly elections on the horizon, he said residents of the state are looking to the Congress with hope as they seek a change. He also brought up issues like unemployment and question paper leaks in the state and questioned the incumbent's ability to govern.

"We are concerned about the physical and mental health of the Chief Minister," he expressed, adding, "How safe is Bihar under the leadership of a CM who is unwell?"

He, however, parried questions about the Congress' plans for the upcoming Assembly elections in Bihar. On being pressed, he divulged, "We are focused on strengthening the organisation before the state polls." Responding to a query about the sharing of seats, he said, "Why should one be bothered about it so early?"

'Residents feel unsafe'

Pawan Khera cited the recent killings of two cops in the state to argue that the law and order situation has worsened to a great extent in the state and that residents feel unsafe now. With Assembly elections on the horizon, he said residents of the state are looking to the Congress with hope.

Next govt will be formed under Tejashwi, says Lalu

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

RASHTRIYA Janata Dal (RJD) chief and former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav on Sunday expressed confidence that the next government in Bihar will be formed under the leadership of his son, ex-Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav.

"Koi mai ka laal usko CM banana se rok nahi sakta hai (nobody can stop Tejashwi from becoming the CM)," the RJD supremo asserted as the party gears up for the high-stakes Assembly elections slated to take place later this year.

While dwelling on the promises made in the party's election manifesto, Lalu stressed, "The 'Mai Behan Maan Yojana' will be a boon for the women." Under the scheme, an amount of ₹2,500 will be transferred to the bank accounts of poor women every month. "The scheme will enable these women to lead their lives with dignity," the RJD chief said.

He also pledged, "If the RJD is voted into power, the prices of LPG cylinders will be slashed to ₹500, and the monthly old age pension will be enhanced from ₹400 to ₹1,500. Besides, 200 units of electricity will be provided free of charge."

Highlighting the role that party workers play in enlightening the public about poll promises and schemes, he called on them to start preparing for the elections. Further, he emphasised the need to strengthen their organisational set-up at the booth level.

> **Koi mai ka laal usko CM banana se rok nahi sakta hai (nobody can stop Tejashwi from becoming the CM)"**
>
> Lalu Prasad Yadav, RJD chief

RJD's poll promises

While dwelling on the party's promises , Lalu stressed, "The 'Mai Behan Maan Yojana' will be a boon for the women. Under the scheme, ₹2,500 will be transferred to bank accounts of poor women every month.

Sambhal violence: Mosque chief held, brother says arrest to stop testimony

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

FOUR months after communal violence rocked the Sambhal city in UP, Shahi Jama Masjid management committee chairman Zafar Ali was arrested on Sunday on the charge of inciting a mob.

Sambhal had witnessed violence on November 24, 2024 in the wake of a court-ordered survey of the Shahi Jama Masjid to determine if a temple had earlier existed at the mosque site. The violence had claimed five lives.

Sambhal superintendent of police Krishna Kumar said the arrested chairman of the Jama Masjid was found to have played an incendiary role during the violence. "We have evidence pointing towards his role in inciting violence. He was picked up by the police from his house in Sambhal on Sunday morning and interrogated at Kotwali police station by senior policemen before being arrested," the SP said.

Prior to the arrest, Rapid Action Force (RAF) and Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) personnel were deployed not only around the mosque but also near Zafar Ali's house.

Ali was also picked up by the police on November 25, a day after the violence, but released after being interrogated that day. "Since then we had been gathering clinching evidence against the Jama Masjid chairman and today he has been arrested," said Sambhal ASP Shirish Chand.

Zafar Ali's elder brother Tahir Ali claimed, "Police arrested Zafar Ali to prevent him from appearing before a judicial commission investigating the violence." Ali was scheduled to appear before the commission on Monday.

Zafar Ali had been claiming that those who lost their lives during the November 24 violence had fallen to the bullets fired by police to quell the protests against the masjid survey. The SIT had filed a chargesheet last month in connection with November 24 violence.

The chargesheet named Dubai-based international autolifter as the mastermind behind the unrest. According to the chargesheet, 80 arrests were made, and 79 are still pending. There are 159 accused in the Sambhal violence case.

3 civilians killed in artillery attack by paramilitary Rapid Support Forces on Omdurman in Sudan

GLOBAL WEATHER

Beijing	22	8	LC	Los Angeles	30	13	SNY
Colombo	32	25	SNY	Melbourne	21	12	LC
Dhaka	33	22	SNY	Moscow	12	3	LC
Dubai	29	20	LC	New York	12	6	LR
Houston	29	18	LC	Singapore	31	25	TDS
Istanbul	18	13	LC	Toronto	7	1	LS
London	16	7	LC	Washington	20	7	LR

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Kremlin expects 'difficult negotiations' over Ukraine

MOSCOW

THE Kremlin on Sunday downplayed expectations of a rapid resolution to the Ukraine conflict, saying talks were just beginning and that "difficult negotiations" lay ahead.

Delegations from Russia and Ukraine are to hold separate talks with US officials in Saudi Arabia over the next 48 hours as President Donald Trump pushes for a rapid end to more than three years of fighting.

Despite both sides proposing different plans for temporary ceasefires, attacks have continued unabated. A Russian strike on the Ukrainian capital killed three civilians overnight.

"We are only at the beginning of this path," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told Russian state TV on Sunday, ahead of the talks in Saudi Arabia. He said there were many outstanding "questions" over how a potential ceasefire might be implemented.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has rejected a joint US-Ukrainian call for a full and immediate 30-day pause, proposing instead to halt attacks only on energy facilities.

Originally scheduled to take place simultaneously in Saudi Arabia on Monday, the talks on a partial truce could now happen one after the other.

President Volodymyr Zelensky said Ukrainian and US delegations would meet Sunday, without giving further details on what appeared to be a change in format.

Peskov said Russia's "main" focus in its talks with the US would be discussing a possible resumption of a 2022 Black Sea grain deal that ensured safe navigation for Ukrainian agricultural exports in the Black Sea. Moscow pulled out of the deal—brokered by Turkey and the United Nations—in 2023, accusing the West of failing to uphold its commitments to ease sanctions on Russia's own exports of agricultural products and fertilisers.

A senior Ukrainian official previously told *AFP* that Kyiv would propose a broader ceasefire, covering attacks on energy facilities, infrastructure and naval strikes.

Both sides launched fresh drone attacks on the eve of the negotiations. Ukrainian officials said a Russian drone attack killed seven civilians in the capital Kyiv, including a five-year-old girl and her father. An 11-month-old child was among some 10 also wounded in the strikes on Kyiv, officials said on social media. *AP*

Ukrainian firefighters put out a fire following a Russian drone attack near the capital city Kyiv that killed seven people | AP

Israel presses ground offensive in Gaza, urges people to evacuate burning Rafah

JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S military pressed ground operations across the Gaza Strip on Sunday, urging Palestinians to flee an offensive in Rafah city nearly a week into a renewed assault on the Hamas-ruled territory. The latest evacuation warning follows a deadly flare-up in Lebanon and missiles fired from Yemen, while Israeli troops are again deploying to parts of Gaza despite calls to revive a January truce.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said on Sunday that the war, triggered by the October 7, 2023, attack on Israel, has killed at least 50,021 people in the territory. Hamas's 2023 attack on Israel resulted in 1,218 deaths, mostly civilians, according to Israeli figures.

In a statement on X on Sunday, military spokesman Avichay Adraee said the army "launched an offensive to strike the terrorist organisations" in a district of the southern city of Rafah, already the target of a major Israeli offensive about a year ago.

In a message that *AFP* correspondents said also appeared on leaflets dropped over the area by drone, Adraee called on Palestinians there to leave the "dangerous combat zone" in Tal al-Sultan district and move further north.

At a charity kitchen in Khan Yunis, southern Gaza's main city just north of Rafah, 19-year-old Iman al-Bardawil said many displaced Palestinians like her struggle to "afford food and drink".

"We are in the month of Ramadan, which is a blessed month, and people... find themselves obliged to come here," Bardawil told *AFP*, lamenting "the suffering" she saw.

"I'm here to get rice for the children, but it's gone," said Saed Abu al-Jidyan, who like Bardawil had fled his home in northern Gaza.

"The crossings are closed, and my salary has been suspended since the beginning of the war... there is no food in Gaza." *AFP*

Pope Francis back home after 5-week hospital stay

VATICAN CITY

A frail Pope Francis returned to the Vatican on Sunday after a five-week hospitalisation for life-threatening double pneumonia, and he made a surprise stop at his favorite basilica on the way home before beginning two months of prescribed rest and recovery.

The 88-year-old pope sat in the front passenger seat of his white Fiat 500 wearing nasal tubes to give him supplemental oxygen as he entered the Perugino gate of Vatican City, where his return brought relief after fears his illness could be fatal or lead to another papal resignation.

Pope Francis at a window of the Agostino Gemelli Polyclinic in Rome | AP

Francis' motorcade from Gemelli hospital overshot the Vatican initially and took a detour across town to stop at St Mary Major basilica, where the pope's favorite icon of the Madonna is located and where he always goes to pray after a foreign visit.

Before leaving the hospital, Francis was wheeled onto a balcony overlooking its main entrance and gave a thumbs-up and acknowledged the crowd. Hundreds of people had gathered on a brilliant spring Sunday morning to say goodbye and catch a first glimpse of Francis in five weeks.

Doctors say Francis needs two months of rest and convalescence at the Vatican, during which he should refrain from meeting with big groups of people or exerting himself. But they said he should be able to resume all his normal activities eventually. *AP*

EXPRESS READ

Canadian parties kick off election campaign on Sunday

Toronto: New Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and his Conservative opponent kicked off their election campaigns Sunday against the backdrop of a trade war and annexation threats from US President Donald Trump. Carney announced there will be a five-week election campaign before the vote on April 28.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank (A Government of India Undertaking)

IMMADIHALLI BRANCH (10463)
#1105/6 Paptandur, Agrahar, White Field, Bengaluru, Bommasandra, Bommasandra Industrial Estate S.O, Bengaluru, Bommasandra-560066.

POSSESSION NOTICE APPENDIX IV under Rule 8 (1) (SECTION 13(4)) (For Immovable Property)

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **Canara Bank,** under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 has issued a Demand Notices calling upon the Borrowers/ Mortgagors/ Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned In the notice within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Mortgagors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/ Mortgagors/ Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rules 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on below mentioned dates.
The Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Mortgagors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Canara Bank,** for an amount interest and Other Charges mentioned below.
The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

1. Name and Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors: (1) Smt. P Sujana W/o P Siva Kumar Reddy, Flat No.402, Sai Platinum Apartments, ITPL Main Road, Opposite Kundanahally Colony, Doddanekkundi, Bengaluru-560037. **Having Unit At: A. M/S. Sri Sai Syndicate,** 1570, E Block, AECS Layout, Kundalahally, Bengaluru-560037. **B. M/S. Shravya Enterprises,** No.1526, 1st Main, E Block, AECS Layout, Kundalahally, Bengaluru- 560037. **(2) Smt.P Sindhura Reddy** W/o P V Subba Reddy, No.138, Phasee 2, 4th Cross, Classic Orchards Layout, BG Road, Bengaluru-560076. **Having Unit At: A. M/S. Pavithra Enterprises,** Flat No.007, Srinivasa Varna, No.40/168/1, Kudlu Village, Kudlu, Bangalore-560068. **(3) Smt. P Sujana** W/o P Siva Kumar Reddy, Flat No.402, Sai Platinum Apartments, ITPL Main Road, Opposite Kundanahally Colony, Doddanekkundi, Bengaluru-560037. **(4) Smt. P Sindhura Reddy** W/o P V Subba Reddy, No.138, Phasee 2, 4th Cross, Classic Orchards Layout, BG Road, Bengaluru-560076. **(5) Sri. Vijay Kumar V,** No.104, Sai Platinum, ITPL Main Road, Opposite Kundanahally Colony, Bangalore-560037. **(6) Sri. P Sivakumar Reddy** S/o P V Krishna Reddy, Flat No.402 Sai Platinum, Kundalahally Opp ITPL Main Road, Bengaluru-560037. **(7) Sri. Subba Reddy P V,** No.138 Phase 2, 4th Cross Classic Orchards Layout, B G Road, Bengaluru-560037. **(8) M/S. Padmavathy Builders and Developers, Represented By Its 4 Partners: 1. Smt. P Sujana** W/o P Siva Kumar Reddy, **2. P Sivakumar Reddy** S/o P V Krishna Reddy, **3. Subba Reddy P V** S/o P V Krishna Reddy **and 4. P Sindhura Reddy** W/o P V Subba Reddy, #1526, E Block, AECS Layout, ITPL Main Road, Kundalahally, Bengaluru-560037.
Total amount mentioned in the notice: Rs.3,73,04,843.83 (Rupees Three Crore Seventy Three Lakh Four Thousands Eight hundred Forty Three and Paisa Eighty Three Only) as on **16.03.2025** plus interest thereon.
Demand Notice Dated: 31.12.2024 **Possession Notice Date: 18.03.2025**
Details of Movable Security Assets:
Name of Title Holder : (1) M/s. Sri Sai Syndicate, (2) M/s. Shravya Enterprises, (3) M/s. Pavithra Enterprises, (4) Padmavathy Builders And Developers.
Sl.No.1: Movable: Hypothecation of stocks and Book Debts
Name of Title Holder: (1) Smt. P Sujana W/o P Siva Kumar Reddy, **(2) Smt. P Sindhura Reddy** W/o P V Subba Reddy
Sl.No.2: Immovable: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing site No.524, present BBMP Khatha No.516/524, Second Block , the Aircraft employees cooperative society Limited (AECS) formed in Sy. No.115/1,116 to 121,122/1, 2, 124/1, 3,125 and 131/3 of Kundalahalli Village and Sy No. 39 to 43 of Chinnappanahalli, Sy. No. 8 and 73 of Tubarahalli Village, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru measuring East to West 60" and North to South 40" and bounded on the: East by: Property bearing site No.529, West by: Road, North by: Property bearing site No.525, South by: Property bearing site No.523.

2. Name and Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors: (1) Siva Kumar Reddy S/o P V Krishna Reddy, Flat No 402 Sai Platinum, Kundalahally Opp ITPL Main Road, Bengaluru-560037. **Having Unit at: (a) M/s. Shree Padmavathi Cements,** No.524, B Block, AECS Layout, Kundanahalli, Bengaluru-560037. **(b) M/s. Vineeth Enterprises,** 1526, First Main, E Block, AECS Layout, Kundalahally, Bengaluru- 560037. **(2) Sri. Subba Reddy P V,** No.138, Phase 2, 4th Cross, Classic Orchards Layout, BG Road, Bengaluru-560037. **Having unit at: (a) M/s. Sindhura Constructions,** Flat No.007, Door No.40/168/1, Srinivasa Varna Kudlu Village, Madivala Post, Bangalore-560068. **(3) Smt. P Sujana** W/o P Siva Kumar Reddy, Flat No.402, Sai Platinum Apartments, ITPL Main Road, Opposite Kundanahally Colony, Doddanekkundi, Bengaluru-560037. **(4) Smt. P Sindhura Reddy** W/o P V Subbareddy, No.138, Phasee 2, 4th Cross, Classic Orchards Layout, BG Road, Bengaluru-560076. **(5) Sri. Sreekanth P Reddy,** H.No.556, Ground Floor, 8th Main, 8th Cross, Coffee Board Layout, Hebbal Kempapura, Bangalore 560085. **(6) M/s. Padmavathy Builders And Developers, Represented by Its 4 Partners: (1) Smt. P.Sujana** W/o P Siva Kumar Reddy, **(2) P.Sivakumar Reddy** S/o P.V.Krishnareddy, **(3) Subba Reddy P V** S/o P V Krishna Reddy and **(4) P Sindhura Reddy** W/o P.V.Subba Reddy, #1526, E Block, AECS Layout, ITPL Main Road, Kundalahally, Bengaluru-560037.
Total amount mentioned in the notice: Rs.3,73,04,843.83 (Rupees Three Crore Seventy Three Lakh Four Thousands Eight hundred Forty Three And Paisa Eighty Three Only) as on **16.03.2025** plus interest thereon.
Demand Notice Dated: 31.12.2024 **Possession Notice Date: 18.03.2025**
Details of Movable Security Assets:
Name of Title Holder: (1) M/s. Padmavathy Builders And Developers, (2) M/s. Shree Padmavathi Cements, (3) M/s. Sindhura Constructions, (4) M/s. Vineeth Enterprises.
Sl.No.1: Movable: Hypothecation of stocks and Book Debts.
Name of Title Holder: (1) Sri.P Sivakumar Reddy S/o P V Krishna Reddy, **(2) Sri. Subba Reddy P V** S/o P V Krishna Reddy.
Sl.No.2: Immovable: All that piece and parcel of the property on site No.343, Khatha No.0315/343, Thubarahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, BEML Employee's Co-operative society Layout, Bangalore formed in Sy. Nos. 9, 10/1, 2, 3, 11, 12, 13/1, 2, 14/1, 2, 3, 15/1, 16/1P, 17/1, 2, 18/1, 2, 3, 19, 21/1, 2, 22/2, 23/1A, 1B, 1C, 2, 25, 26/1A, 26/1B2, 1B3, 1B4, 2B, 2C, 2D measuring East to West 60" and North to South 40" and bounded on the: East by: Site No.354, West by: Road, North by: Site No.344, South by: Site No.342.

Date : 18.03.2025 **Sd/-Authorized Officer**
Place : Bengaluru **Canara Bank**

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank (A Government of India Undertaking)

Regional Office, Devanahalli
No. 333, Matru Arcade, 2nd Floor, 19th Ward, B.B. Road, Devanahalli Town-562110, Bengaluru Rural District.

E-AUCTION NOTICE

SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES THROUGH E-AUCTION (ONLINE AUCTION) UNDER RULES 8(6) & (9) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002
Notice is hereby given to the effect that the immovable properties described herein, taken possession under the provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, will be sold on **AS IS WHERE IS, WHATEVER THERE IS AND WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS"** under rule no. 8 & 9 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules (hereinafter refferred tp as the rules) for the recovery of the dues details as under: By inviting tenders on the following terms & conditions. E-auction arranged by the service provider **BAANKNET (M/s. PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd), (Contact No. 8291220220/ 9892219848/ 8160205051, Email:support.baanknet@psballiance.com)**

Avathi Branch, 9618087930, Email : cb0427@canarabank.com
Name of the Borrower/Guarantor (s) : (1) Mr. Sunil Nagaraja Gowda And Mr. Nagaraja Gowda .C, No. 35, Channarayapatna Village Post, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural-562135.
Total Liabilities Outstanding Amount : Rs. 28,09,099.48 as on 01.03.2025 +Interest and Expenses There on.
Details Of Immovable Property With Known Encumbrances, If Any : Vacant site property bearing panchayath Katha No. 16/11, property No. 13(A), measuring to the extent of East - West 64ft and North - South 37ft of Channarayapatna Village, Channarayapatna Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk and **bounded as : East by :** Charandi and Road, **West by :** House of Lakshmappa and vacant site, **North by :** Road, **South by :** Properties of Narayanaswamy and Channegowda.
Known encumbrances, if any : Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
Reseve Price : Rs. 30,79,177/- **EMD : Rs. 3,07,917/-**
EMD Shall be Deposited on or before 28.04.2025, 5.00 p.m.
E-wallet of M/s. PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) portal directly. **Bid Factor : 10,000/-**
Auction Date and Timings : 30-04-2025, 10.30 AM to 11.30 AM
Date & Time of Inspection : 24.04.2025 between 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please logon to our **website https://baanknet.com under "E-Auction"** or contact the respective branches.
Date: 21.03.2025, Place: Devanahalli **Sd/- Authorised Officer, CANARA BANK**

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II (KARNATAKA) BENGALURU
BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House , Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore -560 001
Original Application No.1963/2023
Between: State Bank of India, SARB, Bengaluru ...Applicant
VS
Sri Prajwal P. Shetty & Another ....Defendants
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993, BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION
To : Defendant No. 1 .Sri Prajwal P. Shetty , Aged about 43 years, S/o. Prabhakar Shetty, Flat No. 09, Ground Floor, Block-B, Lotus Palace, 6th Avenue Road, KPTCL Layout, Kasavanahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru - 560 035.
Defendant No. 2 .Smt. Aruna P. Shetty Aged about 66 years, W/o. Prabhakar Shetty, Flat No. 09, Ground Floor, Block-B, Lotus Palace,6th Avenue Road, KPTCL Layout, Kasavanahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru - 560 035.
WHEREAS, the Applicant Bank has instituted an Original Application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against you for the recovery of a sum of **Rs.1,01,16,447.55** (Rupees One Crore One lakh Sixteen Thousand Four Hundred Forty seven and Paise Fifty Five Only) as on 30.11.2023 being total dues with current and future interest and costs and other relief/reliefs.
You are required to show cause on **18.06.2025 at 11.00 a.m.** in person or by a Pleader/ Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in the event of default The original Application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **29.01.2025.**
Sd/- The Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2 , Bangalore
Advocate for Applicant Bank:
M.K. Venkatramana, Advocate,
G-104, J. C. Complex Annexe, No. 186/20, Sirur Park Road, Seshadripuram, Bangalore - 560 020

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR.
I.F.T.No:EE/PWD/VJP/PB/5054/2024-25/4394 Dated:20.03.2025
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-Procurement)

The- **Executive Engineer, Public Works Dept. Division, Vijayapur** Invites tenders from eligible tenderers (registered in Public Works Department) Total 1 work, As per standard bid documents KW- 4 with Different head of accounts costing of amount for Rs. 500.00 Lakhs respectively, the EMD amount of Rs. 7,50,000.00 for the works. Increase in G.S.T shall not be paid in the extended period of Contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time. The calendar events of tenders, dates are fixed as follows 1) Pre-Bid Meeting Date: 24-03-2025 at 11.00 AM 2) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders Date- 28-03-2025 upto 4.30 PM. 2) Opening of Technical Bid Date-29-03-2025 at 4.31 PM. 4) Opening of Financial Bid Date-01-04-2025 at 11.00 AM. Clause-3 Conditions of Standard Bid Document may be seen in Departmental Website i.e "eproc.karnataka.gov.in" and for more information may contact help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 918025501216 & 918025501227) or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Vijayapur
DIPR/VIJAYAPUR/778/KSMCA/2024-25

Avoid Plastic Save Rain Water Create Rain Water Harvesting Structure

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Tender Notice No:364/2024-25

The tenderers willing to submit tenders for Construction of Integrated Vegetable Market at Panjappur, Tiruchirappalli City Municipal Corporation, at an estimated amount of **Rs.236.00 Crore,** to be executed under the I&A fund, Capital Grant Fund 2025-26 and Corporation Fund 2025-26 are requested to submit tenders through E-Tendering procedure in **http://tntenders.gov.in** as well as through sealed hard copies on or before **3.00.p.m.** of **29.04.2025,** which will be downloaded and opened at **04.00.p.m** in the same day. If the date of receipt of tender happens to be holiday, then tenders will be received in the succeeding working day at the same time and venue.

Pre bid meeting in this regard will be held on **11.04.2025** at **11.00 am** at Commissioner's Conference Hall, Corporation Main office. Other details may be obtained in the Engineering section, Main office during office hours in working days.

Tender Conditions are available in the above said website.

(E1/3242/2025(Main) **Commissioner,**
DIPR/ 1138/TENDER/2025 **Tiruchirappalli City Municipal Corporation**

YOUR GUIDE TO SPICY LIVING INDULGE Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

HDFC BANK We understand your world

HDFC Bank Ltd,. Ground Floor, Rashtrothana Bhavan, Muncipal No. 3/1, Ward No 77, Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore - 560001, Ph: 080-68906205

एच डी एफ सी बैंक हम समझें आपकी दुनिया

Demand Notice under Sub Section 2 of Section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act,2002 (hereinafter referred to as "The Act".)

We, HDFC BANK LTD hereinafter called as "Bank" do here by issue notice as under. Please take notice that you the following had availed a loan details of which have been mentioned hereunder. Towards the said loan you have created security interest in favour of the Bank on the property described hereunder by way of mortgage by depositing title deed. After availing the said loan, contrary to the contractual obligations you have defaulted repayment of the loan amount together with interest and other charges. Hence, your loan account has been categorized as Non Performing Asset.
Therefore, the Bank hereby recall the entire loan and call upon you to pay total amount outstanding in your loan account together with interest and all other charges thereon (details of which have been mentioned hereunder), within 60 (Sixty) days from the date of this Notice. Further, You are hereby put on notice that in terms of Sec.13 (13) of the SARFAESI Act, you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured asset detailed hereunder.
If you fail to repay the Bank the outstanding amount, the Bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under Sec 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act. This notice is without prejudice to the Bank's right to initiate such other or further legal proceedings, as it deems necessary under any applicable provisions of law.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower/ Co Borrowers	Description of property (Secured Assets)	A/c No & Amount	Date of NPA	Total Amount /Outstanding Amount
1.	**1. Mr. R Mahendra,** No 9 , 11th cross, Near Hanumantha Nagar police station Ashokanagar, Banashankari 1st stage Bangalore Karnataka- 560050 **2. Mrs. M Pramila,** No 9 , 11th cross, Near Hanumantha Nagar police station,Ashokanagar, Banashankari 1st stage, Bangalore Karnataka- 560050	All the piece and parcel of immovable Property bearing Municipal No 9, old No 7, situated at 11th cross road, ashok Nagar, Sunkenahalli, BCC Division No 49, PID No 51/50/9, BBMP ward No 164, presently comes under the limts of BBMP and bounded on: East By : others property, West by :Site No 8, North By : others property, South By: 25 feet Road Measuring : east to west : 40 +41/2 ft and North to south : 29ft in total measuring 1174.5 Sqft.	**A/c no: 83828186 Rs. 31,00,000/-** **A/c no: 8730109 Rs.5,82,495/-**	**05.08.2024**	**Rs.9,87,135/-** as on 14.11.2024
2.	**1. Mr. Balu Kondly Umapathy ,** S/o, Kondly Hanumanthiah Umapathy Addess at : No. 19, 5th Main, 3rd Cross, Siddartha Layout, VVK Nagar, BSK 3rd Stage Bangalore, Karnataka - 560 085. **Also at :** No. 57, 2nd Cross, 4th Main, Kuvempu Nagar, C Block, Bellary, Karnataka - 583 104. **Hanumanthaiah Umapathy** S/o. Hanumanthiah, No. 57, 2nd Cross,3rd stage Kuvempu Nagar, C Block, Bellary, Karnataka - 583 104.	All the piece and parcel of Property bearing Plot No. 57, Block "C" Kuvempunagar Layout, Ward No. 30, Bellary, measuring East to West 12 Meter and North to South 18 Meters and bounded on the , East by : Plot No. 58, West by : Plot No. 56, North by : Plot No. 25, South by : 09 Meters Road.	**A/c no: 83013725 Rs. 20,00,000/-**	**20.11.2021**	**Rs.14,17,210/-** as on 10.06.2024
3.	**1. Mr. Honnarevanna K. H.** S/o, Honnaiah, Kottagara Halli, Ramanagara Main Road, Near Shiva Temple, Magadi Ramanagar, Magadi, Ramanagar, Karnataka - 562 120 **Also at :** Cognizant Technology Solutions India Private 5 535, Okkiyam, Near Manayata Tech P, Old Mahabalipuram Road, Bangalore Karnataka - 560 045. **2. Mrs. Ranjitha M. R** W/o. Honnarevanna, Kottagara Halli, Ramanagara Main Road, Near Shiva Temple, Magadi Ramanagar, Magadi, Ramanagar, Karnataka - 562 120	All the piece and parcel of the immovable Residential House bearing PID No. 36-131-34, Assessment No. 3539, Site No. 03, carved our of Sy. No. 69, measuring an Extent East to West 12.192 Mtrs and North to South 9.144 Mtrs, totally measuring 111.483 Sq. Mtrs, situated at Devegowda Badavane,, Ward No. 04, 1st Division, Turuvekere Town, Kasaba Hobli, Tumkur District (Property owned by Honnarevanna) bounded on the , East by : Proeprty belongs to Rangaramaiah, West by : 30 ft Road, North by : Proeprty Belongs to S. Nagaraju, South by : Property belongs to S . Nagaraju.	**A/c no: 87871939 Rs. 19,00,000/-**	**05.06.2024**	**Rs.19,20,414/-** as on 10.06.2024

Place : Bangalore **Regd.Office : HDFC Bank Limited, HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg,**
Date : 21.03.2025 **Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013.** **Sd/- Authorised Officer, HDFC BANK Ltd.,**

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₹27,830 CR Dividend payout by public sector banks have risen by 33% in FY24,

Fair to tie fund manager pay to performance?

The mutual fund industry is not in favour of penalising fund managers for underperformance of funds

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

THE China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), the Chinese equivalent of Sebi, has surprised the global fund management industry by proposing salary cuts of up to 50% for fund managers whose funds underperform their benchmarks by 10% or more annually.

This move has sparked an industry-wide debate on whether fund managers should be penalised for underperformance—especially over the long term. We looked at the performance of different categories of mutual funds vis-a-vis their respective benchmarks. As of the end of February, only 14 out of 32 large-cap funds managed to outperform their benchmarks over a one-year period. Among large and mid-cap funds, 20 out of 32 outperformed their respective benchmarks. Interestingly, more than 50% of the funds in the mid- and small-cap categories outperformed their respective benchmarks—86% of mid-cap funds and 79% of small-cap funds did so during the same period. However, this performance varies across timeframes, and it is difficult to make a long-term judgment based on short-term data.

Expectedly, the mutual fund industry is not in favour of penalising fund managers for what it calls short-term underperformance. Aashish P. Somaiyaa, Executive Director and CEO of WhiteOak Capital Mutual Fund, acknowledges that while some countries have similar practices, fund managers often stick to disciplined risk management and long-term strategies. This approach can sometimes lead to tempo-

rary underperformance, particularly when markets reward riskier, cyclical bets. Penalising fund managers for short-term underperformance, he argues, could lead to poor decision-making—such as hugging benchmarks or chasing short-term trends—rather than focusing on long-term fundamentals. He believes that understanding the context behind a fund's performance is more important than rigidly applying performance metrics.

Radhika Gupta, Managing Director and CEO of Edelweiss Asset Management, echoes Somaiyaa's views. She warns that an excessive focus on short-term performance—such as cutting pay by 50% for a single year of underperformance—would discourage fund managers from taking necessary risks and push them toward short-term thinking at the expense of long-term outcomes.

Gupta acknowledges concerns about fund manager accountability but points out that they already have significant "skin in the game." Many invest their own money into the funds they manage—often beyond regulatory mandates, which require at least 20% of salary to be invested, but in some cases reaching up to 70% of personal investments. She adds that bonuses, ESOPs, career progression, and reputation are all directly tied to fund performance. Given India's strong governance frameworks, regulatory scrutiny, and public disclosure requirements, Gupta believes additional punitive measures are unnecessary.

Dhirendra Kumar, Founder and CEO of mutual fund tracking firm Value Research, describes the Chinese regulator's proposal as tricky for open-ended funds with daily NAVs. He suggests using rolling 1-, 3-, or 5-year performance data to determine fund managers' remuneration instead. Kumar also proposes that fund houses consider clawbacks on bonuses if managers consistently underperform.

IN CONVERSATION

ABHIJIT DUBEY
Chief Executive Officer, NTT Data

India to be our top 5 revenue market by 2028: NTT Data CEO

THE $30-billion-plus NTT Data is the third largest globally serving 75% of the Fortune Global 100 companies and is the largest data centre operator in the country with a third of the around $2-billion market pie with close to 290 mw of operational capacity, serving over 3,000 clients and adding another 400 mw in Mumbai. The Tokyo-headquartered NTT Data Inc global chief executive **Abhijit Dubey** tells **Benn Kochuveedan** that the global technology giant, having invested over $3 billion in the past decade here, will pump in another $1.5 billion or $500 million annually for the next three years to achieve the target of doubling its business here. Edited Excerpts:

NTT has been here for close to two decades and over a decade as the data centre operator, something you pioneered here. How has been the journey and where does India stand now within your group?

We have a large investment to accelerate our digital business here. Over the next three years we will invest $500 million each year, taking over cumulative capex to close to $5 billion here, of which we've already pumped in over $3 billion. Our key initiatives include expanding our AI Innovation Centre in Bengaluru, deploying the MIST submarine cable system to enhance global connectivity at an investment of $400 million, and launching the country's largest data center campus in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai with 290 mw in operations, which will go up by 200 mw shortly.

These investments reinforce our commitment to India, aiming to make it a top-five market within three years from the top 10 now. When it comes to our data centre business here, we are already the undisputed market leader both in terms of capacity as well as revenue with a third of the total market share, which makes India our fifth largest. However, given the intense competition and the faster growth I don't see the position changing even though we will be growing at a much faster pace given our ongoing investments towards capacity addition.

The R&D that happens here is going to focus on global clients, not just Indian clients. India is already our delivery and innovation hub for global clients.

What is your hiring plan in India and how many people do you have here now?

Data centres are not a people-intensive industry. Yet we employ 700 here now, and will be adding more headcounts as we expand our operational capacity as we sharpen our focus on India as a key growth driver for our global operations. At the group level, India is the largest employer outside our home market of Japan with over 40,000 people most of them in our IT services and delivery centre businesses.

How do you look at the enabling role of AI in your operations?

The world has transformed to digital at a much faster pace than we can build data centres. Pre-AI, we were looking at about 15% growth in the data centre business globally but post-AI, that's added about five to seven points of additional growth. But over a third of our business globally are AI-driven making us the leaders in AI adoption when it comes to data centres with over 200 mw of AI load deployed already. The emergence of cost-efficient AI models, such as Chinese start-up DeepSeek's R1, has also benefited us. We specialise in AI inferencing-oriented data centres rather than large-scale frontier model training.

You are upgrading and expanding the innovation centre in Bengaluru. How does this align with the company's global AI strategy?

Providing AI infrastructure is one thing. And helping enterprise clients transform using AI, whether it's their business processes or launching new products and services or becoming more efficient in their operations, is another thing. With the innovation centre, we're now looking at massive expansion, both in terms of capacity and capabilities, and to focus on three domains: AI, quantum and digital twin. The Bengaluru centre is part of our global network of innovation centres in 11 countries.

MONEY-WISE

FINANCIAL PLAN FOR SPECIAL NEEDS KIDS

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM
writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

CARING for a child with a developmental disability requires sensible financial planning, especially for Indian parents who may face unique cultural, systemic, and economic challenges. Here's a practical approach to managing finances effectively:

- **Build an Emergency Fund:** Start with a savings buffer—aim for 6-12 months of living expenses. This is critical because a child with special needs may have unpredictable medical or caregiving costs. Use a savings account or liquid mutual funds for easy access.
- **Invest in health insurance:** Get a comprehensive health insurance plan that covers disabilities, therapies, and hospitalisations. In India, options like the Niramaya Scheme provide affordable coverage for people with developmental disabilities. Check if your employer's insurance can be extended to dependents with special needs.
- **Plan for long-term care:** The child will need support beyond your lifetime. Set up a trust—where funds can be allocated for their care without affecting eligibility for government benefits. Consult a lawyer to structure this.
- **Leverage government schemes:** India offers benefits like the Disability Pension (under state-specific schemes), tax deductions under Section 80DD (up to ₹1.25 lakh for severe disability), and the Unique Disability ID (UDID) card for accessing services. Register your child early to tap into these.
- **Budget for therapies and education:** Therapies (speech, occupational, behavioural) and special schooling are expensive. Research subsidised options like NGOs or government-aided centres. Allocate a monthly budget—say, 20-30% of income—depending on your earnings.
- **Save for the future:** Invest in low-risk, long-term options like Public Provident Fund (PPF), Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (if applicable), or MFs with a balanced portfolio. Aim for a corpus that grows faster than inflation (currently about 6-7% in India). For example,₹5,000 monthly in a MF at 10% annual return could grow to ₹16 lakh in 20 years.
- **Upskill or diversify income:** If possible, one parent might consider part-time work or freelancing to supplement income, as caregiving can limit full-time employment.
- **Community support:** In India, family and community often play a big role. Don't hesitate to lean on relatives for emotional or financial support but set clear boundaries to avoid dependency.
- **Track expenses:** Use apps or a simple spreadsheet to monitor spending. Prioritise essentials (food, medicine) over discretionary items. For example, if monthly income is ₹50,000, allocate about 50% to basics, 30% to the child's needs, and 20% to savings/investments.
- **Seek professional advice:** A financial planner with experience in disability planning can tailor a strategy. He/she could even help with the Trust management.

Emotionally, it's tough, but financially, it's about balancing today's needs with tomorrow's security. Start small, stay consistent, and adjust as you go.

MONEY MATTERS

SEBI'S MOVE TO INTEGRATE DIGILOCKER MATTERS

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

THE Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has allowed investors to use DigiLocker, the digital public infrastructure initiative of the Indian government, to store digital documents. It is a significant development that could unlock wealth stuck because the nomination formalities are not done correctly or legal heirs are unaware of their nomination.

According to media reports, unclaimed assets are estimated to be over ₹2,00,000 crore in India. These include equity shares, fixed deposits, bonds and other instruments. In most situations, the money flows into an investor protection fund

DigiLocker will store your demat account statements for shares and mutual funds. It will also store the consolidated account statement. Insurance companies and banks have already done it for policy and bank statements. Similarly, you can also store your National Pension Scheme statements. Your nominee will have access to your DigiLocker after you. If they are not your assets' nominees, they can inform them and speed up claiming assets after you. You can also appoint data access nominees on DigiLocker. After you, such nominees will be granted 'read-only' access.

What could be the impact

Digital storage of personal data is a significant challenge. India has successfully built a public digital infrastructure system based on Aadhaar. It is globally called the 'India Stack' and is now used in many countries. Every other country wants to replicate the success. At the same time, there is barely any research on digital public infrastructure that does not mention the India Stack.

Such a system can reduce paperwork and unlock efficiency at an unprecedented level. The time you spend getting the paperwork done for claiming assets can be saved if you do your estate planning right. Having easy access to documents can cut disputes and save time. Successors for spending or investing can deploy the money unlocked. Either way, it would boost the economy.

You must sign up for the DigiLocker if you have not done so yet. As an investor, you can organise essential documents related to your investments in one place. You can share copies or download them for use later. There is a facility to create a verifiable QR code for your essential documents. That allows you to use it for bank verification for loans, investments, or other transactions. With Sebi's move to sign up with DigiLocker, many more documents can be stored under one umbrella application.

What can happen next

An essential thing in estate planning is the writing of a will. A will supersedes all nominations in case of a dispute. Although most legal experts say that 'will' registration is not mandatory, it is helpful for wealthy families. Some companies facilitate online registration of your will. That ensures a government record of the will. However, DigiLocker should be explored as a possible solution. It ensures the digital storage of an important document. At the same time, the government can get a copy of the will. That will encourage people to use the digital public infrastructure efficiently. It may be easier said than done, though, as it could require amendments to succession laws.

The government may also want to consider using the investor protection fund managed by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to incentivize demat account holders to store financial documents through the DigiLocker application.

Building a legacy is everyone's dream. You want to leave behind enough for your future generations. At the same time, you don't want your children to live with disputes after you. Your money and your emotions are deeply connected. You need to organise your finances better, as any inefficiency could stall wealth creation and estate planning.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

Home grown iconic fizzy drink Goli Soda goes global

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

IN recent years, India has embarked on an ambitious journey to explore global markets with a fresh array of unique, ethnic, and Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged products. From the humble desi fizzy drink Goli Soda and GI-tagged jaggery from Muzaffarnagar to fresh Anthurium cut flowers from Mizoram, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is expanding India's agriculture and food-based export basket.

Once nearly faded into obscurity under the shadow of multinational beverage giants, Goli

Soda has been reinvented as Goli Pop Soda and is now being exported to countries including the US, UK, and those in the Gulf region.

The journey began with trial shipments to the USA, UK, Europe, and the Gulf, which received an overwhelming response, according to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. In a landmark ceremony on 4 February 2025, APEDA officially flagged off the global launch of Goli Pop Soda. The Commerce Ministry further informed that a strategic partnership with Fair Exports India has ensured steady supplies to Lulu Hypermarket, one of the largest retail chains in the Gulf.

"Thousands of bottles have been stocked across Lulu outlets, receiving an overwhelmingly positive response," the ministry noted. In the UK, Goli Pop Soda has quickly evolved into a cultural phenomenon, appealing to consumers drawn to the fusion of traditional Indian flavours with a modern twist.

Anti-dumping duty imposed on 5 Chinese goods

PTI @ New Delhi

INDIA has imposed anti-dumping duty on five Chinese goods, including vacuum flasks and aluminium foil, during the month so far to guard domestic players from cheap imports from the neighbouring country. These duties were imposed as these products -- Soft Ferrite Cores, certain thickness of vacuum insulated flask, aluminium foil, Trichloro Isocyanuric Acid, and Poly Vinyl Chloride Paste Resin -- were exported to India from China at below normal prices. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Department of Revenue, said that the duty imposed "shall be levied for a period of five years" on imports of Soft Ferrite Cores, vacuum insulated flask.

With 30% sales coming from south, it is No.1 market for us: Wonderchef CEO

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

KITCHEN appliance brand Wonderchef, which is co-founded by chef Sanjeev Kapoor and Ravi Saxena, sees the south Indian market as No.1 as about 30% of sales is coming from the southern market.

Ravi Saxena, Co-founder and CEO of Wonderchef, who was in Bengaluru recently for the inauguration of its 30th Exclusive Brand Outlet (EBO) in Bengaluru, said that South India is a great market for any brand. "At the same time, it is a competitive market because all the mega brands in any industry come from South India. We have 20,000 retail outlets across the country and in the South alone about 4,000. In terms of the number of stores, it is less, but in terms of sales, the south

market is the highest," he said. The kitchen appliance brand sees a lot of traction in its smart kitchen appliances, and it plans to make its IPO debut by the end of this year. With Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu emerging as key growth markets, the company's expansion strategy is to prioritise these regions, and it also aims to double its EBO count in the next financial year. "In the last three years, we have been growing by 18 to 20% per year," he said. In FY24, its revenue from operations surged by nearly 20% to ₹377.7 crore.

"We have been able to grow fast primarily because of our unique distribution model and products. We made an entry into an industry which is 100-years-old and if we were to try just to sell things cheaper, it's a race to the bottom. So Sanjeev Kapoor and I decided that we will do quality and innovative products. We will spend a lot on R & D, and will provide different solutions to the people. And it's always customer focused & customer first," he said, adding innovation should bring better value to the customer.

NZ hand Pakistan biggest defeat to clinch T20I series

New Zealand's pace attack carved up Pakistan to deliver a crushing 115-run win — biggest T20 loss by runs — in the fourth T20I on Sunday and clinch the five-match series. The home side moved 3-1 ahead after defending 220-6 in Mount Maunganui and then dismissing a ragged Pakistan for just 105 in the 17th over. **Jacob Duffy** claimed 4-20.

Spinners to fore for and in Chennai

CSK trio accounts for five wickets against MI, with Noor leading the the way at Chepauk

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@ Chennai

CALL off the search. Bring the sniffer dogs back to base. Or, as the kids would say, nature has healed. After the spinners played second fiddle to the quicks in 2024, the MA Chidambaram Stadium, at least on the evidence of 40 overs on Sunday, will be kinder to the slower bowlers in 2025.

In 2024, the hosts' spinners, led by Ravindra Jadeja and Maheesh Theekshana, struggled at home. Their combined return of five wickets across seven games was one of the primary reasons for their absence from the playoffs. It took their spinners less than 20 overs to reach that mark, thanks primarily to Noor Ahmad, whose left-arm wrist-spin -- one of the rarest of skills in world cricket – confounded the Mumbai Indians batters on a surface assisting Ahmad. While R Ashwin and Jadeja got it to hold a touch, Ahmad spun it both ways.

Even if Ashwin, whose homecoming was met with a roar of approval from the ground's familiar flaming yellow wall, and Jadeja weren't as effective in terms of wicket-taking, this troika represents the clearest path for the hosts to make the playoffs after missing it in 2024. On Saturday evening, Suryakumar Yadav had called Ahmad a 'mystery spinner'. Twenty-four hours later, Ahmad lived upto that tag with his variety and his ability to take wickets across multiple phases of the game.

"You have someone like Ashwin and Jadeja who are obviously good and then we also Noor," home skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad had said before the game. "We always wanted someone in our bowling department, who could be aggressive and can come in and take wickets at regular intervals.

Chennai's Noor Ahmad celebrates a wicket against Mumbai on Sunday | R SRIRAM

There were very few in the option pool. So we wanted to get the best (out of) whoever is available and I think Noor is right up there."

As soon as Chennai released Mitchell Santner and Maheesh Theekshana before the mega auction, they were pretty set on Ahmad's unique skillsets. It's why they made Ahmad an offer Gujarat couldn't match at the mega auction last year. The 2022 champions put down their 'Right To Match' card when the bid was at ₹5cr. Chennai doubled his price and Gujarat backed out.

Ahmad is a bit like Rashid Khan in that both of them like to bowl after the powerplay. But that's where the similarities end. Call it the innocence of youth or naivete of the young but the 20-year-old is a more attacking bowler with the caveat that the opposition just don't bother attacking Rashid. The southpaw has the ability to challenge both edges, irrespective of the type of batter he's bowling to. And he can keep producing these kinds of deliveries on demand.

SUPER KINGS spinners at Chepauk

2023	20 wickets in eight games
2024	Five wickets in seven games
2025	Five wickets in one game

Off the first ball of his second over, he got one to turn sharply. It missed Tilak Varma's bat swing and went for four byes as MS Dhoni's gloves weren't even in the same postcode. Two balls later, He got one to beat Suryakumar Yadav's outside edge. The Indian captain had showed some adventure by stepping down. He was on his bike back to the dressing room after Dhoni followed the trajectory of the ball to effect a smart stumping.

Moments later, he welcomed Robin Minz with the one turning into the right-hander.

This was the period when an unsexy but steady Mumbai start had gone from solid to iffy; like a block of jenga one turn away from a pre-advertised death.

At 3/72 after 8.1 overs with two set batters at the crease, they had multiple paths in front of them towards targeting a score in excess of 170. Over the next 40 balls, the trio of Ashwin, Jadeja and Ahmad bowled 14 dots and picked up three wickets.

It's what the hosts have tended to do at their fortress. Let their spinners hunt prey like a boa constrictor. Cutting off the blood supply. The spinners returned a combined 5/70 off 11 overs (the pacers picked 4/80 in nine).

The visitors, who had their own mystery left-arm spinner in Vignesh Puthur, picked up three wickets to close out a fine game for the tweakers.

New season, same old SRH: Kishan rampage sets the tone

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

"WHATEVER ground we go to," Daniel Vettori had fired a warning shot on the eve of Sunrisers Hyderabad's season-opener against Rajasthan Royals, "we have an understanding that the batting team is going to be aggressive. The only thing that can mitigate that is the pitch, but most times, the pitches in the IPL are very flat."

Vettori was intimate with what Pat Cummins, the franchise captain, told the team. The Australian had said the onus was on the batters to do all the heavy-lifting with the bowling group potentially feeding off that energy. "If we get those days to make it all work, it's going to go a long way in us winning games," the Kiwi said. "The onus is on the batting group to score runs and for the bowlers to be able to mitigate that."

On the evidence of what transpired in their home ground on Sunday afternoon, Hyderabad are on course to not only emulate but perhaps go one better than 2024 when they tripped at the final hurdle. On a belter of a deck, all of Travis Head, Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan, Nitish Reddy and Heinrich Klaasen routinely hit boundaries in a display of brute power-hitting. Even if some of the shots were premeditated, there was a distinct method to the mayhem they unleashed — staying leg-side of the ball, clearing the in-field and playing the percentages. Kishan, one of the franchise's big-money signings at the mega auction last year (₹11.25 cr), had been a hit-or-miss batter for his previous team, Mumbai Indians. But what Kishan offers is he immediately lifts the ceiling of this team considerably from a hitting perspective. Like Head and Sharma, he uses significant muscle and doesn't bother too much when it comes to wicket preservation.

Ishan Kishan (L) and Travis Head together added 85 runs in 6.2 overs | VINAY MADAPU

TOP FIVE INNINGS TOTALS

2024	Hyderabad	vs	RCB 287/3
2025	Hyderabad	vs	RR 286/6
2024	Hyderabad	vs	MI 277/3
2024	Kolkata	vs	DC 272/7
2024	Hyderabad	vs	DC 266/7

RAINING BOUNDARIES IN HYDERABAD
34 fours 12 sixes

5 Each of the league's top five innings totals have come since the start of last season

1 **Ishan Kishan's** century is the first of this year's IPL. It's also the first of his IPL career.

Against Rajasthan, he displayed some of those trademark characteristics after the pair of Headishek had done their thing. A rapid 45-run stand off just legal deliveries. It's why this batting line-up is so hard to contain when the openers bat for the first few overs. Unlike some of the other openers in the league, they are okay playing out dots. But they aren't big fans of singles and strike rotation. It's either go big or go home.

In their stand of 45, there were as many as six dots but there were only five scoring shots that weren't boundaries. A ridiculous 36 runs came off boundaries before Maheesh Theekshana dismissed the Indian southpaw. It was just power-hitting dialled to 11 as Kishan made room and let his hand-eye coordination do the rest. Other bowlers also travelled as the Jharkhand-born keeper-batter kept clearing the boundary just in front of square on the off-side. When the moment came, his first IPL ton, the adrenaline was coursing through his veins. "I just feel good," he told the official broadcasters after his innings. "It (century) was coming. I was hoping for it in the previous years, the team is doing well and the environment is very different." Rajasthan tried gamely but the game was up even before their openers had walked out to chase 287. **Brief scores:** SRH 286/6 in 20 ovs (Kishan 106 n.o, Head 67) **bt** RR 242/6 in 20 ovs (Jurel 70, Samson 66; Harshal 2/34).

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Capital test for Lucknow

Delhi Capitals and Lucknow Super Giants play their first game of the season in Vizag. A look...

Injury issues continue

Shardul Thakur has come in as replacement for Mohsin Khan but multiple injuries to their pace attack has left LSG hamstrung. How they cope with it will determine their fortunes.

Eyes on JFMG, Stubbs

Jake Fraser-McGurk and Tristan Stubbs were the biggest positives for DC last year and will play a massive role this season as well. JFMG firing upfront will be instrumental for their plans.

Delhi Capitals vs Lucknow Super Giants, Vizag

Live on Star Sports & JioHotstar, 7.30 PM

DC, LSG aim for strong start under new skippers

AGENCIES @ Visakhapatnam

WITH their respective leaders switching camps and squads undergoing major overhauls, both Delhi Capitals and Lucknow Super Giants, under new captains, will be eager to make a strong start to their IPL campaign when they face off here on Monday.

Rishabh Pant, who had been a Delhi Capitals' player throughout his IPL career and also their captain, left the franchise and was snapped up by LSG for a record price of ₹27 crore. While his pay cheque will keep the Indian wicketkeeper-batter in limelight through the course of this season, it will also present Pant an opportunity to make a strong case for himself in the white-ball formats as he didn't get a game during the recent Champions Trophy. On the other hand, KL Rahul, who led LSG for two years since their IPL debut, has switched to DC, where he would be a vital cog in their plans, not as a leader but as a key batting mainstay, with Indian all-rounder Axar Patel being appointed captain.

Captains Rishabh Pant (L) and Axar Patel on Sunday | G SATYANARAYANA

Ruturaj, Rachin fifties guide Super Kings home

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @ Chennai

SKIPPER Ruturaj Gaikwad set the tone upfront (53 off 26 balls) and Rachin Ravindra (65 n.o off 45 balls) finished the job as Chennai Super Kings beat Mumbai Indians by four wickets at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Sunday.

Chasing 156, CSK opened with Rahul Tripathi and Rachin but the former fell early. However, Gaikwad got going and helped CSK finish strongly in the powerplay (62/1). Even after he got out and wickets kept falling at the other end, Rachin held fort and took CSK across the line with MS Dhoni at the other end.

Earlier, Deepak Chahar's late rescue act helped Mumbai get to 155/9. For Chennai, spinner Noor Ahmad was the star of the show as he took 4/18 in four overs. Coming into bat at the 17th over, Chahar, along with Trent Boult, ensured MI went from 118/7 to 155/9 in the death. He took every bowler in the way, smashing two sixes and as many fours along the way to hit an unbeaten 28 off 15 balls.

Skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad hit 53 off just 26 balls against Mumbai Indians | R SRIRAM

Put in to bat, Mumbai Indians had a disastrous start as they lost Rohit Sharma in the fourth ball of the innings, with the India ODI captain failing to open his account. Khaleel Ahmed tested Rohit by bowling wicket to wicket. Rohit got the first delivery on his pads, second he was beaten, the third he defended on the back-foot. The fourth one, Rohit flicked it to Shivam Dube at mid-wicket.

Rohit's dismissal put the visitors on the back-foot. They were under pressure and once again Khaleel Ahmed showed his prowess by castling Ryan Rickelton. Gaikwad brought in R Ashwin at the right time and the veteran spinner answered his call by by picking the wicket of Will Jacks. A lot depended upon the pair of Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma to do the rescue act. The MI stand-in skipper missed the line to be stumped by the evergreen Dhoni, with Noor picking up his first wicket. Soon the Afghanistan spinner accounted for Robin Minz and Tilak. **Brief scores:** MI 155/9 in 20 ovs (Varma 31, Chahar 28 n.o; Khaleel 3/29, Noor 4/18) **lost to** CSK 158/6 in 19.1 ovs (Rachin 65 n.o, Ruturaj 53; Vignesh 3/32).

Chinese GP: McLaren one-two as Piastri wins

AGENCIES @ Shanghai

OSCAR Piastri hailed his "mega" McLaren after winning a Chinese Grand Prix on Sunday later overshadowed by the disqualifications of Ferrari's Lewis Hamilton and Charles Leclerc for technical infringements. Alpine's Pierre Gasly was also kicked out after Piastri led a McLaren one-two from pole position with Lando Norris second.

Almost three hours after the chequered flag, stewards ruled that Leclerc and Gasly had cars that weighed less than the 800 kilogram minimum, while Hamilton was found to have excessive plank wear underneath his car. Leclerc had finished fifth and Hamilton sixth. Their points have been stripped with all the drivers below them gaining places. Gasly finished 11th so was already out of the points. It means that Esteban Ocon moves up to fifth, Kimi Antonelli to sixth, Alex Albon to seventh and Oliver Bearman to eighth. Lance Stroll and Carlos Sainz were promoted to score points for ninth and 10th respectively It was a disastrous end to a weekend that had started so brilliantly for Ferrari when Hamilton took his maiden win for his new team in Saturday's sprint. The plank assembly is a skid plate which is designed to wear away when the floor strikes against bumps on the track or kerbs. If it is too worn it can improve performance as cars can run closer to track, increasing "ground effect" down force.

McLaren's Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri (R) celebrate after the race | AP

Wales begin World Cup quest with 3-1 victory

AGENCIES @ Paris

WALES beat Kazakhstan 3-1 on Saturday to start their bid to qualify for the 2026 World Cup with a win, while Erling Haaland was among the scorers as Norway swept to a 5-0 victory in Moldova.

Wales are chasing a second straight appearance at the World Cup finals after they made it to the 2022 tournament in Qatar, and Craig Bellamy's team saw off a dogged Kazakhstan side in Cardiff.

Wales went in front in the Group J encounter inside nine minutes with a deflected effort from the Leeds United winger Daniel James. Kazakhstan, who are 110th in the FIFA rankings, drew level from the penalty spot just after the half-hour mark, Askhat Tagybergen converting following a handball by Connor Roberts.

Norway's Erling Haaland rejoices after scoring against Moldova | AP

Wales picked up where they left off in their impressive UEFA Nations League performances at the end of last year as they got the job done in the second half.

Captain Ben Davies restored the lead with a header shortly after the restart. Rabbi Matondo came off the bench to wrap up the win at the death.

Aleksandar Trajkovski and Visar Musliu netted in the first half before Girona forward Bojan Miovski sealed the win late on as North Macedonia eased to a 3-0 victory away to minnows Liechtenstein.

Meanwhile, Norway made short work of Moldova in Chisinau, with full-back Julian Ryerson of Borussia Dortmund giving the visitors an early lead from close range in the Group I encounter.

Manchester City superstar Haaland missed a good chance before adding the second goal midway through the first half, finishing from an Andreas Schjelderup cutback.

Nat'l boxing meet: Jaismine enters quarters

ENS/AGENCIES @ Greater Noida

COMMONWEALTH Games medallist Jaismine Lamboria (54-57kg) continued her stellar run at the 8th Elite Women's National Boxing Championship as she secured a dominant second-round RSC victory over Chandigarh's Ruchika here on Sunday. In the process, she reached the quarterfinals.

Sanamacha Chanu (65-70kg) of Railways Sports Promotion Board was the other standout performer of the day. Sanamacha dominated her bout against Manipur's Bindiya Devi Maorem to post a win by unanimous verdict.

Sanamacha's calculated aggression and sharp technique kept her opponent on the back foot, reinforcing her title credentials early on in the competition. Meanwhile, Sonia (51-54kg) of Uttar Pradesh made a strong statement in the bantamweight category, overpowering Delhi's Vanshika to advance.

EXPRESS READ

Guwahati set for landmark ties

GUWAHATI: Guwahati is set to be the first Test cricket venue in the northeast region when India take on South Africa here in November, BCCI general secretary Devajit Saikia reportedly said. The city will also host its first-ever world cup match later this year during the ICC Women's ODI World Cup.

Draper back down to earth

MIAMI GARDENS: Britain's Jack Draper, the winner at Indian Wells, came back down to earth with a bump on Saturday, beaten 7-6 (2), 7-6 (3) by Czech Jakub Mensik in his opening match at the Miami Open. Alexander Zverev eased into the third round with a 6-2, 6-4 win over Britain's Jacob Fearnley.

Race walker Priyanka sets NR

NEW DELHI: CWG medallist race walker Priyanka Goswami set a national record in women's 35km event during the Dudinska 50 competition in Dudince, Slovakia. Goswami clocked 2:56:34 on Saturday to finish 11th in the 44th edition of Dudinska 50, a World Athletics Race Walking Tour Gold Label meet.

UPCOMING EXAMINATIONS

RCRB	OPSC SDIPRO	CIL MT
Date: From March 26 & 27, 2025	Date: March 29 & 30, 2025	Date: March 29, 2025

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Archit Gupta
BTech - 2006 Batch
Founder and CEO, ClearTax

Ankit Nagori
BTech - 2008 Batch
Founder and CEO, Curefoods

Dr Harpreet S Dhillon
BTech - 2008 Batch
W Martin Johnson Professor of Engineering and interim Department Head of Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Virginia Tech

Akshat Jain
BDes - 2017 Batch
AIR 2 in the UPSC CSE 2018

Richa Singh
BDes - 2009 Batch
Co-founder and CEO, YourDOST

EXPLORING IIT GUWAHATI

Located in the serene and scenic Northeast India, IIT Guwahati has nurtured successful students, enterprising entrepreneurs and research that has the world sit up and take note. **Saumya Solanki** sets out on its exploration

Fun awards: A list of campus life highlights

1. **Best hangout spot:** Khokha
2. **Best canteen on the campus/best dish:** Lohit Anna Canteen and Biryani
3. **Favourite library spot:** Third floor, with sofas and the perfect AC spot
4. **Craziest campus tradition:** If your cycle gets stolen you "borrow" someone else's cycle
5. **Best time to be on campus:** February-March (Spring)
6. **Most competitive club/ society:** Coding club
7. **Most Insta-worthy spot on campus:** IITG Lake/ New guest house to old guest house road
8. **Midnight hunger saviour:** Disang canteen or just Maggi in the hostel canteen
9. **Unwritten rules:** Calling your juniors Faccha and the MTech students Matka
10. **Most mysterious spot:** Ground behind TIC complex
11. **Rumours:** There are leopards on campus

Cutting-edge research and innovations

Semiconductors & AI

- **Ultra-wide bandgap semiconductors:** Revolutionary impact on high-power applications.
- **AI & Robotics:** Advancements in healthcare, automation, and smart systems.

Healthcare breakthroughs

- Affordable motion sensors for medical applications.
- Regenerative therapy for knee meniscus tears.
- IoT-enabled water quality monitoring device.

Sustainability & environmental tech

- **Geopolymer technology:** Converts industrial waste into usable material.
- Ammonium removal from wastewater for cleaner water solutions.

Space & defense collaborations

- **With ISRO:** Research in quantum gravity & space science.
- **With Indian Army (Gajraj Corps):** Epoxy bamboo-based composites for high-altitude bunkers.

Biotechnology & industrial research

- India's first swine fever vaccine technology successfully transferred.
- C-Phycocyanin production technology (low-cost, high-yield natural blue pigment).

Global collaborations and infrastructure

- **Partnerships:** Leading universities in Canada, Japan, and Thailand for cross-border research.
- **ISO 5 & 6 Cleanroom facilities:** First-of-its-kind for nano/micro-electronics fabrication.

Eco-friendly building materials made using industrial waste

3D-printed dummy ballot unit

A landmark born from the Assam Accord

IIT Guwahati's establishment is deeply tied to the historic 1985 Assam Accord, which aimed to address the state's socio-political and economic issues. One of the key educational provisions of the accord was the creation of an IIT in Assam. This led to the official foundation of IIT Guwahati in 1994, making it the sixth IIT in India. The first academic session began in 1995, and since then, the institute has become a hub of technological advancement in the Northeast.

If the walls could talk: Campus stories that spell success

During a lab session with school students

Delegates attending an event

Medal winner

A lush green campus in harmony with nature

Nestled along the Brahmaputra River, IIT Guwahati is often called one of the most picturesque IITs. Unlike many other IITs built in urban settings, its campus is home to rich biodiversity, natural lakes, and green spaces. This unique environment has inspired various research initiatives in sustainable technology, eco-friendly infrastructure, and climate resilience. The integration of natural surroundings with academic spaces provides students with a serene yet intellectually stimulating environment.

(L to R) Chinmoy Prakash Phookan, Managing Director, AIIDC, and Prof Devendra Jalihal, Director, during an MoU signing event

(L) Prof Ashok Puranik, Director, AIIMS Guwahati and (R) Prof Devendra Jalihal, Director, IIT Guwahati

Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Finance Minister, delivering an address at IITG

Events that are now ICONIC

stage is set

IIT Guwahati's vibrant campus life is defined by its student-led festivals that celebrate culture, technology, and entrepreneurship. These events attract participants from across the country, making them a core part of the institute's identity

Alcheringa – Northeast India's largest cultural festival

A celebration of creativity, youth, and diversity, Alcheringa is the largest cultural festival in Northeast India. Held over three days and four nights, the fest transforms the campus into a hub of artistic expression with electrifying performances, intense competitions, and immersive workshops. Events like Pronites, Proshows, and Creators Camp bring together students from across India, offering a stage to showcase talent.

Techniche – The techno-management fest

With high-stakes robotics competitions, hackathons, and hands-on workshops, Techniche inspires young minds to push technological boundaries. The fest also features the Technothlon school championship, encouraging students nationwide to develop analytical and logical thinking skills.

Udgam – An entrepreneurship summit

Organised by the E-Cell of IIT Guwahati, Udgam was conceptualised to cultivate and spread the spirit of entrepreneurship among young minds, acting as an exclusive platform for start-up enthusiasts, innovators, and product managers. Through panel discussions, start-up pitches, mentorship programmes, and networking sessions, Udgam plays a vital role in shaping NE's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

"IIT Guwahati drives NE's tech & economic growth"

Located in the Northeast, IIT Guwahati provides an inspiring and refreshing environment for its students. The strategically developed campus creates an environment that promotes students' well-being, creativity, and academic focus as well, says Director Prof Devendra Jalihal

What makes IIT Guwahati a nurturing ground for innovation?

Our Technology Incubation Center (TIC) has been instrumental in supporting start-ups with mentorship, seed funding, and connections. Our start-up incubator, BioNEST, also supports this endeavour with its annual flagship Kickstart start-up conclave that nurtures ideas into successful ventures.

The institute has made significant advancements in semiconductor technology. Tell us more about the same.

We have made significant progress, particularly in the field of ultra-wide bandgap (UWBG) semiconductors.

The developed materials are particularly beneficial for high-power electronics because they have an extremely high breakdown voltage and superior thermal conductivity. This development has the potential to transform several sectors of the economy, like EVs, Aerospace, Defence, and Renewable energy technologies.

How does IIT Guwahati contribute to the development of the region?

IIT Guwahati drives the Northeast's technological and economic growth through key initiatives. The Assam Advanced Healthcare Innovation Institute, a 15-acre teaching and research hospital, is set for completion by 2027.

The Entrepreneurship and Rural Development Initiative fosters start-ups and industry partnerships, while training programmes under National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 empower educators with Tinkering Labs.

The institute collaborates with the Deori community to preserve cultural heritage and organised one of India's largest Science and Maths Olympiads, benefiting 1.14 lakh students.

HIDDEN GEMS ON CAMPUS OFFER PEACE

Old guest house roof – a secret sunset spot

A quiet escape, the Old Guest House Roof offers a breathtaking view of the serpentine lake and the setting sun, making it the perfect place to spend time with good friends. Surprisingly, many students are unaware that this serene spot is open to all, providing a peaceful retreat from the bustle of campus life.

PIC: EIGEN PIXELS

The Viewpoint – a sunrise adventure

A half-hour morning walk leads to The Viewpoint, where the entire IIT Guwahati campus unfolds before your eyes. Overlooking the hostels, lake, and sports complex, it is particularly stunning at sunrise, when golden hues bathe the landscape. For night owls, a daring 3 am trek offers a surreal experience — moonlit tranquillity followed by a mesmerising sunrise on the way back.

The hidden cricket field

Tucked away beside the Biotech Park, a bushy trail leads to a forgotten cricket field — an untouched sanctuary known only to a few. This quiet escape, surrounded by nature, becomes a space for deep conversations, quiet reflection, and stolen moments. A cultural gem of the campus, it holds the echoes of friendships, laughter, and memories, making it one of the most beautiful escapes on campus.

STUDENTS' VOICES

RITWIJ KUMAR, THIRD-YEAR, BACHELOR'S IN ENGINEERING

The best part of my journey was serving as the Events Head of the Technical Board, IITG. My role was to enhance our tech culture by organising events that fostered innovation and collaboration. One of the events I organised was Techevince 2024. It was rewarding to see participants being inspired by the innovations on display.

KRISHNA VAMSI, THIRD-YEAR, BACHELOR'S IN ENGINEERING

The best part of my journey was participating in Inter IIT Tech Meet 13.0 held at IIT Bombay. My team of four participated with the problem statement "Insolation Energy," which focused on developing a predictive framework for tackling future challenges in solar panel waste management in India while proposing cost-effective, and sustainable solutions. We put in immense effort, and it all paid off when we won the bronze medal.

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DAY'S DIARY

Women's Olympiad

The 1921 Women's Olympiad, organised by Alice Milliat, began in Monte Carlo, marking the first international women's sports event

THE VENUE

The games took place in a lawn in front of the 'Tir aux Pigeons', just below the Monte Carlo Casino. Substantial crowds watched dozens of women run hurdles, and play

AFTEREFFECTS

The success of this event led to the founding of the Fédération Sportive Féminine Internationale (FSFI) and Women's Amateur Athletic Association (WAAA) in the UK

TRAILBLAZERR

Alice Milliat was a pioneer in the women's sports movement. She was also a good rower and swimmer, who also played hockey

CE's guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

Tucked inside an alley on Kamaraj Road is a 150-year-old school that, until recently, lay in complete ruin. Following an intensive restoration project, the space is now an arts venue

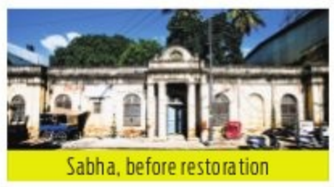
RECLAIMING A FORGOTTEN SPACE

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

IF you've ever been to Commercial Street or the busy shopping areas surrounding it, you may have noticed an odd colonial building peeking out from behind a plastic hoarding, or caught a glimpse of an intricately carved wooden door painted in a fading green or blue, behind bustling shopkeepers and tourists. Originally developed in the 19th century as a shopping district mainly for British residents, it's no small wonder that these colonial buildings have remained around Commercial Street, waiting to be noticed. The 150-year-old school on Kamaraj Road, founded and currently owned by RBANM's Educational Charities, was one such building, falling apart for over 15 years after the school stopped operations in the 2000s. Now, as it's back to its former glory after two years of restoration, walking into the space is like slipping through a crack in time.

Now an arts venue called 'Sabha', it's impossible to imagine the approximately 7,500 square foot space – a large building with a pitched roof, a smaller one with a Madras terrace roof, and two courtyards – as a derelict school. But architect and partner at Hundred Hands, Bijoy Ramachandran, recalls what he saw when he was brought in. "The interior was divided into several classrooms using wood and masonry partitions when we first got there, and the buildings were in a very bad shape. The roof was damaged or had caved in, the plastering on the walls was all but gone, the masonry was cracked and opening up in places, and all the windows were in a very bad shape. It was decrepit in the dictionary definition of the word," says Ramachandran, adding, "We also had to deal with a lot of water seepage even in dry months as there's a very high water table in this part of the city because of its proximity to Ulsoor lake."

The Sabha building, after restoration



Sabha, before restoration

Apart from fixing the flooding with a power drain system redirecting water to a stormwater drain outside, the space saw changes mainly to uncover the understated beauty of the building itself. "These old buildings are incredibly well-proportioned and beautiful in their essential condition. And that really comes to light now that we've removed all the insensitive additions made over the years – you see the structure for what it is," says Ramachandran .

Ramachandran, and V Ravichandar, trustee of Ammini trust, which manages the venue and spearheaded the project, made it a priority to reuse the original materials as much as possible and when it wasn't, to source replacements close to the original. Techniques like 'stitching' were used by contractors specialising in restoration projects to correct some of the structural damage, notes Ramachandran, saying, "They inserted stone pieces to tie masonry where the walls had large structural cracks and packed up places where portions of the old brickwork had been eaten away by moisture or fallen off, with resized brickwork, matching the old courses, set in traditional mortar and finished in plaster, both with lime mixed on site."

The timber work is another fascinating architectural element of the restored structure, with a combination truss roof (timber and steel) in the pitched roof building and stunning central pillars in the Madras terrace building. "It's actually all in the joinery and the way that the structure has been put together – the skilled carpenters were making new variations on traditional methods of joining timber, mixing the old and new timber while replacing the damaged parts of the structure," says Ramachandran.

Interiors of the Madras terrace building, an exhibition space

Courtyard connecting the two buildings within Sabha

PICS: ANAND JAJU, VIVEK MATHEW

While retaining the original look, brand new additions have been made to make Sabha functional as an arts space with a retractable platform, chairs, air conditioning, a lighting system, and a sound system, while the building has naturally lent itself to good acoustics. "We have had piano and clarinet sessions, plays, talks without mics... the top notch acoustics have been a great surprise," says Ravichandar. He continues, "Glass facade structures are the standard model today but you also need something distinctive."

The cost of a project such as this was no pittance either, with Ravichandar noting, "The cost of doing conservation and restoration projects is 30-40 per cent more than a new greenfield project." The space was 'soft launched' by hosting a few performances during Blr Habba in December, but will fully kick off operations with an official inauguration on April 12 and 13, open to all.

Ravi Suchak, teacher and founder of Capoeira Academy, talks about the ancient Afro-Brazilian cultural practice that blends dance, art, music and fitness

Partially Martial

I break down the team into different batches: beginner, intermediate and advanced. We start with a warm-up, to make sure none gets injured during class. Then we get into the techniques

Ravi Suchak, capoeira expert

ANJALI RAM

FOR Bengalureans who are on the lookout to learn something new – a new artform, a new sport, a new fitness routine, a new language – lies a hidden gem, a single martial art practice, that is a fusion of above mentioned all: capoeira. A fusion of dance, art, music, culture and fitness, capoeira evolved from being a survival tool among the Afro-Brazilian community to a globally-known art form. In Bengaluru, Ravi Suchak – teacher and founder of Capoeira Academy – is the force that drives the capoeira enthusiasts in the city to bring the art form to the forefront.

Although the art's history is debated, Suchak states, "Enslaved Africans in Brazil would imitate what was around them – including animals. That's how capoeira came up. During war, it was used it as a self-defence tool without weapons. It started as a martial art and later, it evolved by adding music and dance into itself. Then acrobatics came in," Suchak explains.

Art or a sport?

There is an ongoing debate about whether to label capoeira as an art form or as a sport. However, with its no-contact element and the wide range of aspects one can choose from – acrobatics, dance, music and fitness – categorising it is irrelevant. "One may come to learn a specific aspect of capoeira and may end up liking more than that," says Suchak.

Whether you are a beginner or a capoeira veteran, Suchak welcomes everyone. "I break down the team into different batches: beginner, intermediate and advanced. We start with a warm-up, to make sure none gets injured during class. Then we get into the techniques of it. We learn a bit of acrobatics, dance and toward the end, we play it as a game," he adds.

Key elements

Just like a band, capoeira also uses a line of musical instruments including berimbau, the main instrument which resembles a bow and arrow, alongside drums, tambourine and other percussion instruments. Surrounding the instruments stand people forming a circle. The participants sing and play songs which are in Portuguese. Capoeira differs from other martial arts: although it involves contact in practice, it focuses on counter movement rather than direct physical contact, making it a conversation through movements. "If A is hitting the other person, the other person responds to it with an escape move. It's a strategy game like chess," Suchak says, adding, "At that point, it looks like a dance."

According to Suchak, capoeira also mirrors a person's personality through the game, revealing whether they are dominant or non-dominant. Besides that, it helps in relieving stress and building confidence. Looking ahead, with capoeira gaining momentum among people, he says, "If someone takes over after me, they will have their style; as of now we have three different formats but it keeps evolving."

(Capoeira Academy India is situated in New Thippasandra)

XPRESS FOCUS

PEDALLING TOWARDS FITNESS

Sundays on Cycle Promotes an Obesity-Free India

The Sports Authority of India (SAI), Bengaluru, in collaboration with the Physical Education Foundation of India (PEFI), Bengaluru North University, and the Indian Academy Group of Institutions, successfully organised the mass cycling programme "Sundays on Cycle", a cyclothon as part of the Fit India Movement, on 23rd March 2025 at Indian Academy Degree College – Autonomous, Hennur Cross, Bengaluru. The event was aimed at creating awareness about obesity among the general public and promoting cycling as a way to achieve a healthier lifestyle, supporting the initiative for an Obesity-Free India.

The primary objective of the event was to raise awareness about the growing obesity issue in India and encourage participants to adopt cycling as a regular form of physical activity. Registration for the event began at 6:00 AM. To ensure smooth participation, each participant was instructed to bring a government-issued ID and a soft copy of their registration confirmation.

The event saw an impressive turnout of over 300 participants, ranging from 10 to 55 years of age, including students, faculty members, families, and the general public. The 7 km cycling route was carefully planned with safety in mind, and volunteers were stationed throughout the course to assist and guide the participants. Water stations and light refreshments were provided along the route to keep the participants hydrated, and a first-aid station was set up for any emergencies.

The event was flagged off at 7:00 AM by Dr. A.B. Subbaiah, Former International Hockey Player, Arjuna Awardee, and Director of Khelo India Central Bangalore, along with Neole David, International Athlete and National Games Medalist. They were joined by Rajesh from SAI, Dr. R. Srikanth and Dr. Ravi Kumar from PEFI, and Dr. Bharathi S, Principal of Indian Academy Degree College – Autonomous.

The event's success was attributed to the excellent coordination of the conveners, Dr. Raghupathi and Dileep, who ensured that all requirements were met. The event also received great support from the local police and medical teams, ensuring the safety and well-being of participants throughout the day.

After the completion of the ride, Dr. A.B. Subbaiah addressed the participants, sharing valuable insights on the importance of an Obesity-Free India and encouraging them to stay active for better health. Neole David highlighted the significance of cycling in daily life, while Dr. Srikanth R, Director of the Directorate of Physical Education at Bengaluru North University and PEFI Coordinator, emphasised the importance of fitness and regular physical activity.

One of the key highlights of the event was the wide participation from all age groups, demonstrating that cycling is an accessible and enjoyable form of exercise for everyone. The event was a reminder of the importance of staying active to prevent obesity, ensuring a sense of community with families and students coming together to support a healthier lifestyle. After the event, breakfast and snacks were provided to all participants, volunteers, and officials by the host institution. Special thanks were extended to SAI Bengaluru for providing the necessary cycles and T-shirts to all participants. A heartfelt thank you was also given to Dr. Piyush Jain, Secretary, for supporting the event, and to the Indian Academy Group of Institutions, including all principals, staff, and students, for their cooperation in making the event a success.

CITY READ

Luxury hotel hosts Japanese food festival

The Ritz-Carlton, Ashok Nagar, is hosting the Sakura Food Festival this month with a limited-time menu by Chef Noel Adrias as a tribute to the art of Japanese cuisine, priced at ₹6,500 for two guests. The menu begins with sakura tartare, a blend of avocado and pomegranate. The nikkei course offers a choice between the rainbow assorted seafood carpaccio or the plant-based avocado carpaccio with sakura salad, complemented by the nanbu bijin yuzu lemon sake. The makizushi selection features the forbidden silky chutoro makizushi and the dianthus pink flower avocado with beetroot. For the robata course, diners can choose between the smoky kaiso suzuki or asparagus, paired with blueberry umeshu sake. This is followed by the signature mochi ice cream for a sweet conclusion. For reservations, call 97410 35124.

Organisation launches initiative for insurance awareness

Tata AIA Life Insurance recently launched its Pledge to Protect initiative in Bengaluru as part of the company's goal to secure one lakh lives in the fourth quarter of the 2025 financial year. On the occasion of the organisation's 24th Foundation Day held recently, the Bengaluru team, comprising of branches in Lavelle Road, Koramangala, Vijayanagar and Jayanagar, engaged nearly 200 consumers and agents in awareness sessions on life insurance. The initiative included rallies on Church Street, in Nexus Mall and at Vijayanagar's Ashoka Pillar, where employees and advisors distributed leaflets and water bottles, and donated clothes and groceries to old age homes. Additionally, at IT Park, the team connected with over 300 potential customers.

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NBA Workshop on Outcome-Based Education Held at Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences

National Board of Accreditation (NBA) in Association with Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (RUAS) and Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), inaugurated a workshop on "Outcome-Based Education and Accreditation", recently. The event focused on preparing institutions for National Board of Accreditation (NBA) standards and was attended by over 300 academic leaders and administrators from colleges across Karnataka.

The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. Anil Sahasrabudhe, Chairman of NBA, in the presence of dignitaries including Dr. S. Vidyashankar, Vice Chancellor, VTU; Dr. M. R. Jayaram, President, Gokula Education Foundation; Prof. P. N. Rajdan, Advisor, GEF; Dr. Anil Kumar Nassa, Member Secretary, NBA; and Prof. R. V. Ranganath, Academic Dean, RUAS.

The inauguration ceremony included a symbolic plant-watering ritual, representing the nurturing of knowledge, growth, and academic progress.

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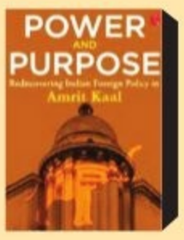


Power and Purpose Rediscovering Indian Foreign Policy in Amrit Kaal

By Harsh V Pant and Anant Singh Mann

It takes the readers on an insightful journey through 75 pivotal moments that have shaped India's foreign policy since 1947.

500 Tips for Startup Folks

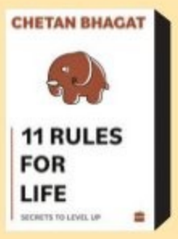
By Mayank Bidawatka

Serial entrepreneur Mayank Bidawatka tells you how to swim with 'sharks' and leave them behind in their 'tanks'.

Rain Dogs

By Rohit Chawla

As an exhibition and as a book, with contributions from some thirty writers complementing Rohit's very personal photographs that capture a time, a place, and a mood.



11 Rules For Life: Secrets to Level Up

By Chetan Bhagat

The author draws on his failures and triumphs, his many conversations with high achievers from all walks of life and over two decades as a celebrated motivational speaker.

LET THEM EAT CAKE

Participants learning French cooking from Michelin Star Chef Dominique Fieux during International Francophonie Day celebrations at Alliance Française de Bangalore on Saturday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

QUICKFIX

JHAL MURI

INGREDIENTS

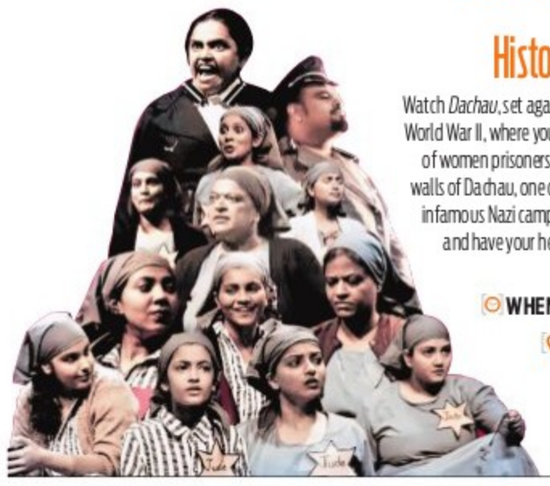
- **Puffed rice:** 2 cups
- **Mixture or sev**
- **Mustard oil:** 2 tbsp
- **Potatao:** 1, boiled & diced
- **Green chilli:** 2, chopped
- **Coriander (optional):** to garnish

METHOD

- Add mustard oil to the puffed rice in a bowl.
- Add the potato, green chillies, and mixture/sev.
- Mix well and serve immediately.

Contributed by **Sanjivan JM Watson,** Kalimpong

WHATWHENWHYWHERE



History on stage

Watch *Dachau*, set against the backdrop of World War II, where you delve into the lives of women prisoners confined within the walls of Dachau, one of the first and most infamous Nazi camps. Join the audience and have your heart moved and soul stirred.

WHEN: March 25, 7.30pm

WHERE: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar

DETAILS: rangashankara.org

Shake it up!

Join salsa teachers Archana and Raghuram as they present fun lessons in salsa dancing. Attendees will get to learn a few moves with good technique and structure, and try it out with fellow attendees. **WHEN:** March 24, 8pm to 10pm

WHERE: Qube Cafe, Jayanagar **DETAILS:** allevents.in

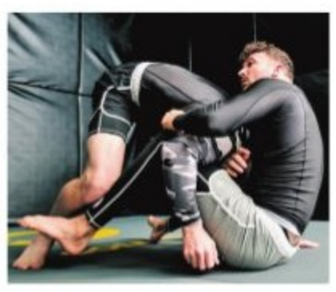
Knockout

Experience the thrill of Mixed Martial Arts (MMA). Join the beginner-friendly classes where you will learn striking, grappling, and self-defence techniques under the guidance of experienced instructors in a safe, supportive environment. The classes include cardio and strength workouts designed to challenge your body and mind.

WHEN: March 24, 8.30pm

WHERE : NY Knockout Academy, Bilekahalli

DETAILS: bookmyshow.com



Craft Zone

Support local artisans and learn more about India's rich cultural heritage through Bangalore Arts and Craft Mela, an exciting event showcasing a wide range of arts, crafts, handlooms, and lifestyle products. From intricate handcrafted jewelry to beautiful textiles and home decor, there will be something for everyone at this fair.

WHEN: March 24 onwards, 10.30am to 8.30pm.

WHERE: White House Convention Centre, HSR Layout

DETAILS: allevents.in

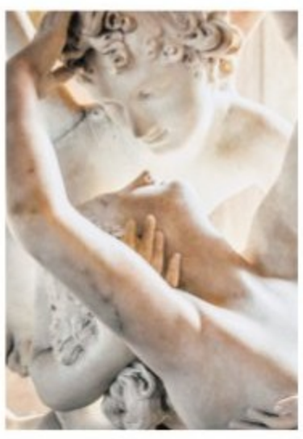
Bridge the Gap

The Critical Insider series highlights the unique contributions and fresh perspectives brought to the practice of Indian classical music by a new generation of gifted practitioners. Watch the screening of *The Sound Alchemists*, which delves into the Saraswati Veena's rich history, its distinctive place in the world of music and the remarkable contributions of Ramana Balachandhran.

WHEN: March 25, 6.30pm to 8.30pm

WHERE: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur

DETAILS: bangaloreinternationalcentre.org



Behind the Doors

Join in to get a sneak peek into the intricacies involved in museum conservation. Tuesday Tidbits is an ongoing series that seeks to support youth in career research by giving them a glimpse into the workings of the museum sector.

WHEN: March 25, 5.30pm to 6pm

WHERE: Museum of Art and Photography, Kasturba Road

DETAILS: map-india.org

Ramadan feast

Celebrate an unforgettable Iftar this Ramadan and experience the Ramadan Fest – The Meal of Elegance, an exquisite dining celebration curated by Indian Master Chef Riyaz Ahmed. Rooted in culinary heritage the experience begins with a traditional welcome drink symbolising warmth and hospitality.

WHEN: March 24 onwards, 12pm

WHERE: Aaleeshan, JW Marriott Bengaluru Golfshire Resort & Spa, Devanahalli

DETAILS: allevents.in

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi.

My 16-month-old male indie cat has always been calm, and has had outdoor access. He's started hunting birds and bringing them home. What could be the reason for this change? What can I do to address it?

Your cat's new hunting behaviour could be a result of his natural instincts becoming stronger as he matures. At 16 months, he's transitioning into adulthood and may feel more confident in his hunting skills. Even though he has had outdoor access, his increased predatory drive could be the cause of his interest in hunting birds. To address this, try offering more indoor stimulation like interactive toys or puzzle feeders to redirect his energy. Ensuring he's well-fed and engaging in regular playtime can also help reduce the behaviour. You should consider neutering him and limiting his outdoor access.

ASK AN XPERT

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FITBIT

EKA PADA PARIVRTTA TADASANA JANU AERIAL (ONE-LEGGED REVOLVED MOUNTAIN POSE KNEE AERIAL)

This is a beginner level standing/twist pose. One can experience improved balance and stability as the suspended position challenges core strength. The twisting motion of the pose promotes spinal mobility and flexibility, aiding in alleviating tension and discomfort in the back. The stretch along the sides of the body helps to increase flexibility in the obliques and intercostal muscles, enhancing the overall range of motion. Also, it stimulates circulation and lymphatic drainage, promoting detoxification and revitalisation of the body.

STEPS

- Start by spreading a yoga mat on the floor for extra support. Adjust the height of the hammock that reaches around your hip area.
- Hold onto the sides of the hammock. Stand with your feet hip-width apart and your spine tall.
- Inhale deeply and engage your core muscles for stability, shifting your weight onto the left foot. Lift the right foot, placing it into the hammock's fabric.
- Inhale and lengthen your spine. Exhale, twist your torso towards the right, extending the arms to the side. Take a deep breath.
- Hold the twist and maintain a steady breath rhythm. Deeply inhale, expand the chest, lengthen the spine, and exhale fully to deepen the twist and engage the core muscles.
- Focus on a point for balance. Breathe deeply and evenly, remaining mindful of your alignment and stability. Keep left foot grounded.
- Hold the pose for six to eight breaths or as per your capacity, feeling the stretch along the sides of your body and the opening in your chest.
- Inhale, carefully unwind the twist, release your right foot. Repeat on the other side.
- After that, stand on the side of your hammock and rest in Three Part Breath Mountain Pose for six to eight breaths.

BENEFITS

- Helps increase the range of motion of the spinal muscles.
- Pressure on the navel region supplies the area with fresh oxygenated blood, increasing the efficiency of the organs.
- Increases the digestive fire, and helps in burning away toxins in the body.
- To raise the bent knee and hold it at hip level requires strength of the hip flexor.
- Not only strengthens but also stretches the sides of the lumbar region.
- Provides comfort to those who suffer from mild back issues due to long hours of sitting or travelling.
- The arms extension allows for deeper breaths and helps correct postural changes that occur with old age.
- Those resuming normalcy after a long period of bed rest can practise this pose.
- Balancing on one leg helps activate the entire body.
- Opens the muscles of the legs, reduces stiffness around the lower back, opens the gluteus maximus and allows for deeper breathing with awareness.
- Regular practice of this pose can improve physical and mental well-being.

LIMITATIONS

- Students suffering from vertigo, dizziness, or recovering from an injury or surgery on the joints, have high blood pressure, heart ailments, fibromyalgia, arthritis, low iron or bone density, or had a miscarriage, should avoid this.
- Pregnant women in later stages, should consult with a yoga expert before attempting it.
- Though this is a beginner-level pose, anyone with a fear of heights or vertigo may find its suspended nature unsettling and should approach it cautiously or choose alternate variations.

By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

ARTCORNER

IN NATURE'S BOUNTY

Artist Carola Carmin paints her deep connection with nature in a landscape painting featuring topographical details

LATEST BUZZ

Yamaha 2025 FZ-S Fi Hybrid

India Yamaha Motor has introduced its first-ever hybrid motorcycle, the 2025 FZ-S Fi Hybrid, priced at ₹1,44,800 (ex-showroom, Delhi). The motorcycle features a 149cc Blue Core engine, now OBD-2B compliant, and is equipped with Yamaha's Smart Motor Generator (SMG) and Stop & Start System (SSS). It boasts a refined, balanced design with sharper edges on the tank cover, offering a sleek yet aggressive look. The 2025 FZ-S Fi Hybrid is available in racing blue and cyan metallic grey.

BYD Seal & Atto 3

BYD India has announced major product enhancements for the SEAL luxury electric sedan and the ATTO 3 on the launch anniversary of the BYD SEAL. The BYD SEAL now features a silver-plated dimming canopy, upgraded climate functions, enhanced acoustics, and wireless Android and Apple connectivity. Additionally, it debuts BYD's advanced DiSus-C intelligent damping system, along with several suspension performance upgrades. Bookings for the BYD ATTO 3 Model Year 2025 are now open at ₹30,000, with the first 3,000 customers receiving the vehicle at 2024 ex-showroom prices. Bookings for the BYD SEAL 2025 commenced on March 11, 2025 with a booking amount of ₹1,25,000.

Price reduction on Ferrato scooter range

OPG Mobility (formerly Okaya EV), a trusted name in electric mobility, has announced a strategic price reduction on its entire two-wheeler scooter range under the 'Ferrato' category, excluding the MotoFaast and Faast F3 models. This initiative aligns with the company's vision of making electric mobility more affordable and accessible by passing on supplier cost benefits directly to customers. OPG Mobility continues to offer a complete EV ecosystem through its Ferrato, OTTOOPG, and MTEKPOWER brands.

Hyundai 'Super Delight March' offers

Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL) has launched Hyundai Super Delight March, a sales promotion campaign offering attractive benefits on its vehicle range.

Customers can now avail discounts of up to:

- **₹55,000** on Hyundai Venue
- **₹35,000** on Hyundai Exter
- **₹50,000** on Hyundai i20
- **₹53,000** on Hyundai Grand i10 NIOS

A WINSOME DEAL

LEKSHMI C PILLAI

CE takes the Windsor EV out for a 1,000km drive

THE Windsor, the latest offering from JSW MG Motor India, has taken the Indian EV market by storm. Its unconventional design makes it a head-turner, while its feature-rich package and competitive pricing make it a compelling choice.

I recently had the opportunity to take the Windsor on a long drive, clocking about 1,000km. Here's what makes it such a likeable car.

Performance and range

The MG Windsor EV is powered by a 136hp motor producing 200Nm of torque. It features a 38kWh lithium ferrous phosphate (LFP) battery pack with a claimed range of 332km. The car offers four drive modes – Eco+, Eco, Normal, and Sport – along with regenerative braking settings that influence real-world range.

During my drive, I covered over 300km on a full charge. With an energy consumption rate of 8km per kWh, the 38kWh battery reliably delivers a range of around 304 km. Maximising regenerative braking and driving in Eco+ or Eco mode can help extend this.

Cabin comfort

Beyond its electric and economical nature, the Windsor stands out for its highly comfortable cabin. The seats are designed like leather sofas, and the top variant features ventilated front seats.

Thanks to the flat floor, there's ample legroom, making long journeys comfortable even for the middle rear passenger. The rear seat backrest reclines up to 135 degrees, adding to the lounge-like experience, complemented by a wide panoramic glass roof. The only notable omission is rear window shades.

The wide-opening doors allow easy entry and exit. The dashboard houses a massive 15.6-inch horizontally oriented touchscreen, alongside an 8.8-inch digital instrument cluster.

The flat-top dashboard incorporates integrated cup holders, while the cabin offers plenty of storage, including door pockets, a floating centre console, and a compartment beneath it. Charging options include a wireless charging pad.

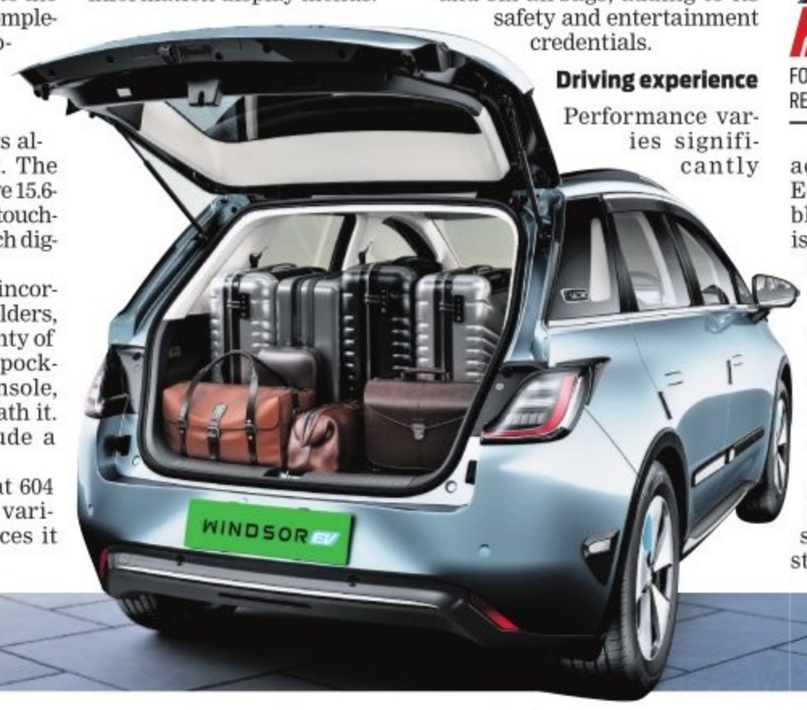
Boot capacity stands at 604 litres, though in the top variant, the subwoofer reduces it slightly to 579 litres.

Technology

The 15.6-inch infotainment system supports wireless Android Auto, Apple CarPlay, and connected car features. While the system's large icons make it easy to use, some lag is noticeable. Thankfully, climate controls are operated via physical switches.

The steering wheel features toggle buttons with dual functions, which can be confusing initially. The left toggle adjusts the mirrors and climate controls, while the one on the right manages volume and the multi-information display menus.

The Windsor EV is equipped with a 9-speaker Infinity sound system, a 360-degree camera, and six airbags, adding to its safety and entertainment credentials.



XPRESS HIGHWAY
FORTNIGHTLY SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

Driving experience

Performance varies significantly across the drive modes. In Eco+, acceleration is noticeably lower, and the top speed is capped at 80km/h. The Windsor also offers three levels of regenerative braking – Light, Normal, and Heavy, which comes as the default.

The difference between these modes is pronounced, and single-pedal driving is effective in Heavy mode.

Acceleration is smooth and predictable, without any sudden jumps. The car remains stable at high speeds, and the steering feels light and effortless in slow-moving traffic while offering adequate weight at higher speeds.

The Winds or handles corners well, with minimal body roll and good grip. Some road noise does filter into the cabin, but it is not overly intrusive.

Verdict

Priced between ₹14 lakh and ₹16 lakh, the Windsor EV presents a strong value proposition in the mid-size SUV/MUV category. Its extensive feature list, spacious and premium interiors, smooth performance, and decent real-world range make it a highly attractive option.

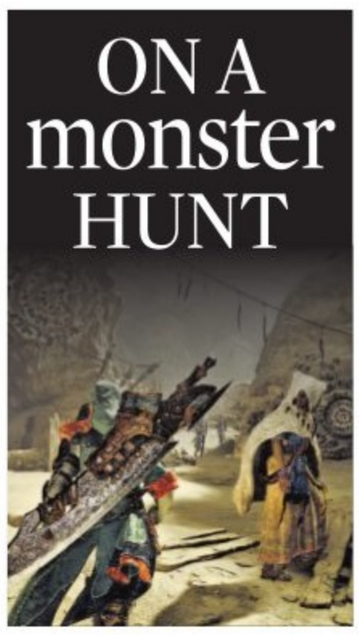
While it lacks a rear wiper, rear sun blinds, and a spare tyre, the Windsor's positives outweigh these minor drawbacks, making it a winning choice.

The writer is a freelance auto expert who hosts TV shows and anchors the YouTube channel 'CARKADUVA'

@quofles

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

ON A monster HUNT



EXPLAINING *Monster Hunter Wilds* is rather redundant. You have it right there – the name couldn't have been more clear. You hunt monsters, most of which are in wild forbidden lands. Wilds is the latest game in the series, and the visuals are as spectacular as ever. The series itself has been around for 20 years, so this review is for those of you that have kept yourself shielded from all of it for this long.

One elaborate character creation menu later, the game jumps right into it. An unexplored piece of land with ancient tribes is disturbed by a mysterious earth shattering event. A little child escapes, and is saved by futuristic adventurers. He turns up to his saviours and begs: 'You must save my people, you must help me find my village', You are one of those saviours. A monster hunter. A killer of those disgusting creatures that haunt the lands and eat the food of hardworking people. Destroyers of those evil beasts that rattle the very core of the earth and attempt to break it apart.

While the role of the monster hunter is very serious and important, it is often hard to be solemn while executing your assigned task. Especially if one of the monsters that you have to fight to kill is a 'Congalala': a baboon that shoots noxious fart fumes. Many such creatures exist, and some of these are a little more beautiful, and a bit more smarter and nuanced than others.

The combat is something I really enjoy in *Monster Hunter Wilds*. The visuals are stunning. I have never felt such joy in the game as when I smash in a perfect combo attack. I'd recommend playing the game with a controller with built-in haptic feedback, because it provides subtle cues on when your blows do or don't land. There's also a satisfying smash vibration when the weapon manages to penetrate the monster's shields. It's just one of those things that cannot translate to a keyboard and mouse set up. I also like that combat isn't very skill sensitive – you could easily kill a monster, even with a bad weapon. Alternatively, if you're struggling with finishing it off, you can use the SOS flare option to ring in reinforcements that can help you fight them off - which brings me to the multiplayer mode.

Unlocked early in the game, the mode allows you to go into a server, where you can join quests with other players. You can also potentially play with a specific party, if you are so lucky as to have friends who also play *Monster Hunter Wilds*. Coupled with Crossplay – I think this is quite a neat addition to the game series that is twenty years old.

All of this good stuff makes me doubly more annoyed that they still have some basic things that they haven't yet figured out – like menus. I was completely lost in trying to figure out what my weapon upgrades did, and ended up wasting resources upgrading the same items – because there was no way for me to understand that I already owned it. I never figured out the way to sort through my 'box' and 'carried' inventory, and I didn't know where my precious 'reward' items went. The map option felt over-engineered, to a fault. It has contours, and 3D movements, but no 'legend' option that would allow me to hide unnecessary markers listed on the map.

Discussing maps also reminds me of the second most annoying feature of the game – fast travel and automatic routing. There are infinite ways to make your way to the next location of a battle, and almost no proper incentive to explore the vast open world map that the game offers. I'm sure there's a simple fix for all of this, and I hope they implement it over the next few months of more gamers playing this now very popular game.

Till such a point, at the risk of offending so many fans of the franchise, I say this – *Monster Hunter* is just not for me. I prefer my in-game monsters to be cute and portable. So I'll stick to *Pokemon* for now. That's not to say that this game isn't good – if you're looking for a nice change from playing *Destiny, Diablo*, or any other hack and slash MMO with friends, *Monster Hunter Wilds* is definitely a worthwhile alternate. The game is available for the Windows, PlayStation, and Xbox, and supports cross-play.

(The writer's views are personal)

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I,**SYED JABIR AHMED,** S/o. Syed Samiullah Ansar Pasha, Residing at No.2, 1st Cross, 100 Feet Road, Behind J.P.Park Mohan Kumar Nagar, Yeshwanthpura Bangalore-560022, have changed my name from **SAYED JABBIR AHAMED** S/o. Sayed Sameulla Ansar Pasha. **(old name)** to **SYED JABIR AHMED, (new name)** vide affidavit dated: 20-03-2025 Sworn before Notary, Sivakumara.M.N., Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Umashankara .S.S** S/o Sannappa, aged about 41 years, R/at No.2452, Ground Floor, 3rd Main Road, Krishnegowda Layout, T.Dasarahalli, Bengaluru-57, I have changed my daughter's name from **BINDUSHREE .S.U** to **REVATHI .S.U** vide affidavit dated 21.03.2025 sworn before Notary A.C. Subbareddy, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, PAWAN SHISHODIYA, aged 40 years, Resident of No. 21/1, Flat No. 003, 1st Floor, Maksfort Residency, 'A' Fort Street, K.R. Road, Bengaluru -560002, have changed my minor son's name from **RUDRANSH SHISHODIYA to DEVIK SHISHODIYA** vide affidavit dated: 20.03.2025 before notary DEEPA .M., Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MANASA / MANASA BHASKAR BENGRE** W/O Nithin Ramesha Kidiyoor resident of Flat No: A03G2, Brigade Meadows, opp Anjaneya Temple, Saluhunase, Kanakapura Main Road, Udayapura, Bangalore: 560082, Karnataka Have changed my name to **MANASA NITHIN KIDIYOOR** vide affidavit dated 21/03/2025, sworn before Notary **Hemalatha.P,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Umashankara .S.S** S/o Sannappa, aged about 41 years, R/at No.2452, Ground Floor, 3rd Main Road, Krishnegowda Layout, T.Dasarahalli, Bengaluru-57, I have changed my son's name from **BHUVAN .S.U** to **AJAY .S.U** vide affidavit dated 21.03.2025 sworn before Notary A.C. Subbareddy, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, PAWAN SHISHODIYA, aged 40 years, Resident of No. 21/1, Flat No. 003, 1st Floor, Maksfort Residency, 'A' Fort Street, K.R. Road, Bengaluru -560002, have changed my minor daughter's name from **MAAYRA SHISHODIYA to LAVISHKA SHISHODIYA** vide affidavit dated: 20.03.2025 before notary DEEPA .M., Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SUNIL KUMAR KALLATTI** S/o B.S. Malleswamy, aged about 38years, residing at No.19/1, MMV Road, VV Puram, (Chamrajpet) Bengaluru-560004. Have changed my name from **SUNIL KUMAR KALLATTI to SUNIL KUMAR M**. And Declaring both mentioned names are one and same and belongs to me only and my **correct name is SUNIL KUMAR M for all purposes,** vide affidavit dated 17/03/2025 sworn before Advocate & Notary Anitha Bai, Bengaluru-560054.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **KISHORI BHADE,** aged about 35 years, PS No.: 122/1. Site No.: 01, Flat 7B, Third Floor, Near Om Shakti Temple, Kodati Gate, Mulluru, Post Office: Camelaram, Bangalore, have changed my name from **BHADE KISHORI KISAN** to **KISHORI BHADE,** vide affidavit dated 20/3/2025 sworn to before K.V. Mani Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
We, **Sharankumar Gurupad Shetty,** aged about 49 years, S/o Late Gurupad Shetty, & **Mrs. Vineeta Sharankumar Shetty**, aged about 46 years, W/o. Sharankumar Gurupad Shetty, presently residing at # 9F, Vahe Imperial Garden, Gunjur-Varthur Main Road, Opp. Gunjur Government School, Gunjur, Varthur, Bangalore-560 087. Hereby declare that, we have changed our minor son's name from "**VIVAN SHETTY**" to "**VIVAN SHARANKUMAR SHETTY**", vide Affidavit dated 22.03.2025, Sworn before Advocate and Notary A.M. Rajasekar, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHASHANK MAHESH SHARMA,** resident of Number 102 Ground Floor, 10th Main 8th Cross, Yellankunte, Mangamanapalya Bangalore – 560068 have changed my name to **SHASHANK SHARMA** for all future purposes. Affidavit dated 22-03-2025 sworn before advocate and notary B M Chandrashekar, Bangalore

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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Yash's ambitious project, *Toxic* set for a worldwide release in 2026

CE FEATURES

INDIAN cinema is on the verge of a game-changing release as Rocking Star Yash gears up for his much-anticipated film, *Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups*. Initially set for release on April 10, 2025, the film's release date has now been pushed to March 19, 2026—almost a year later—strategically positioning it for maximum impact. This decision to shift the release takes advantage of a major festival season in India, with Gudi Padwa, Ugadi, Chaitra Navratri, and Eid-al-Fitr converging on a four-day extended weekend, ensuring a massive audience across the country. The filmmakers are capitalising on the holiday season to attract moviegoers from every corner of India and beyond.

Set against the backdrop of a star-studded cast, including Yash in the lead role alongside Kiara Advani, Nayanthara, Huma Qureshi, Tara Sutaria, and international actor Kyle Paul, *Toxic* promises to be an out-of-the-ordinary film. Shot in both Kannada and English, this Indian cinema production is making a significant push to appeal to global audiences. Designed to traverse cultural and language boundaries with its bilingual approach, *Toxic* ensures its reach extends far beyond India. Along with the Kannada and English versions, the film will be dubbed in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and other languages, positioning itself for a major international release.

Given the scale and ambition of the film, coupled with its complex nature and international appeal, additional time was needed to ensure everything met the filmmakers' high standards. Although shooting will be completed ahead of schedule this year, the enormous scale of the production—along with the challenges of realizing such a grand vision—means that post-production will require extra time to perfect the film. The film's latest poster, showcasing Yash emerging from flames with a mysterious silhouette looming in the background, hints at the high-stakes, adrenaline-fueled journey awaiting viewers. This teaser follows the viral birthday glimpse earlier this year, which left fans on the edge of their seats, eagerly awaiting more details about the film's plot and tone. The new release date perfectly aligns with a season of celebration, and with the holiday window now opening up, the filmmakers are fully capitalizing on the festive rush.

Directed by Geetu Mohandas, an internationally acclaimed filmmaker whose previous works have earned her National Award and Global Filmmaking Award recognition, *Toxic* is poised to deliver an action-packed spectacle. The director's vision ensures that the film will not only be an adrenaline rush but also emotionally resonate with audiences worldwide.

Produced by Venkat K Narayana and Yash under KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations, *Toxic* combines world-class production values, with Rajeev Ravi serving as the cinematographer and JJ Perry choreographing the stunts.

Mahesh Manjrekar

PRAKASH VEER HAS WRITTEN A SIGNIFICANT ROLE FOR ME IN *DEVIL*: MAHESH MANJREKAR

The actor, set for an intense face-off with Darshan in *Devil*, shares why he chose his role, his thoughts on the evolution of cinema across platforms, and his interest in directing a Kannada film

A SHARADHAA

MAHESH Manjrekar is known for his diverse talents as an actor and filmmaker. Recently, he was in Bengaluru, joining the sets of *Devil*, starring Darshan and directed by Prakash Veer. The film is currently in production, with the next leg of the shoot moving to Rajasthan today. Initially, the actor expressed his love for Bengaluru. "Bengaluru has a vibe that's hard to match. The people are always so open, and the weather just adds to the charm. It's a city where I've found comfort and inspiration," he says.

Mahesh has had an extensive career, working in films across several Indian languages—except Malayalam. He believes that cinema transcends language barriers. "Cinema, for me, is a universal language. It's about connecting with the audience through emotion, regardless of the language you speak," he explains. "Every region has its own flavour of storytelling, and I've been fortunate enough to explore them all," he adds.

In *Devil*, Mahesh plays the antagonist, a unique and layered character. Explaining his decision to take on the role, the actor states, "I hadn't worked in a Kannada film in a while, not because I didn't want to, but because I was either not approached or had other commitments." However, upon hearing the script narrated by Prakash Veer, Mahesh was drawn to his character. "It's a significant role," he says. "Sometimes, it's the depth of the character and its impact on the story that excites me. For *Devil*, I've committed 30 days for my portions, which is a significant schedule. My role is as impactful as the lead's."

Despite his extensive experience, Mahesh continues to seek roles that challenge him in an evolving field. "Cinema is constantly evolving, and as actors, we have to evolve with it. For me, I have to step out of my comfort zone and take roles that push my limits. Otherwise, I'll stagnate—and that's not an option."

Talking about the changing scenario of entertainment, he recognises that while platforms have evolved, the essence of storytelling remains the same. "There was a time when cinema overshadowed theatre, then television overtook cinema, and now OTT has risen. But every medium can coexist. What's changing is the platform, not the core of storytelling," he observes.

Mahesh recalls his early desire to become an actor, which he says has stayed with him since his young days. Over time, he's noticed a shift in the role of an actor. "It's no longer just about being the lead. Now, being an actor means embracing various roles—some comedic, others brief yet impactful."

He strongly believes that content is the key to a film's success. "What made *KGF* a massive hit was its content and big entertainment. Content is king—without it, nothing else matters," Mahesh says. He also cites *Chhaava* as an example of how compelling content, more than stars alone, can drive success.

Regarding South Indian cinema, whose stock keeps going up, Mahesh admires the likes of Rajinikanth, Jr NTR, and Ram Charan. "The South Indian film industry has really come into its own. There's a sense of humility in the industry that is rare," he notes. He is particularly excited about his work on *Devil* and the opportunity to collaborate with Darshan and Prakash Veer. "The atmosphere is amazing—there's so much warmth and openness. I'm looking forward to being a part of it," he says. He also expresses his interest in directing a Kannada film one day, appreciating the industry's unique cultural exchange. "It's an exciting industry, and the collaboration between regional cinemas is enriching," he concludes.

Darshan

Mahesh Manjrekar is a great addition to *Devil*

Prakash Veer shares, "For this particular role in *Devil*, I knew I needed the right face. When I met Mahesh Manjrekar and narrated the script to him, he immediately agreed to be part of the film. I felt he was the perfect fit, and everything fell into place naturally. His presence doesn't always feel like he's from Mumbai. His pronunciation in Kannada was exceptionally clear and smooth. He gelled with the team instantly and brought a great energy to the set. His hard work is truly impressive—he's constantly in and out of Mumbai. He's been a great addition to the film, and I'm glad to have him on board."

RASHIKA SHETTY AND ANJALI ANISH SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES OF WORKING ON *MANADA KADALU*, WHERE COLLABORATING WITH DIRECTOR YOGARAJ BHAT HAS MARKED A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE IN THEIR CAREERS

'WITH MANADA KADALU, WE ARE SET TO CREATE OUR LEGACY'

CE FEATURES

FOR Anjali Anish, who previously worked on Padavi Poorva under the Yogaraj Bhat banner, collaborating with the director for *Manada Kadalu* is an experience she believes will elevate her career. "In the beginning, I was a lot more scared of Yogaraj Bhat," Anjali admits with a laugh. "Now, he's a friend, and I have so much respect for him. He's well-read and open to new ideas. We, as Gen Z, are always consuming fresh information, and he's right there with us, learning from it. It's rare to find someone, despite being at the top, still open to evolving."

Anjali, who started as an assistant director before taking a break to complete her law education, hadn't expected to land a lead role in a large-scale film like *Manada Kadalu*. "After my education, I was looking for a chance to relaunch myself in the industry. I didn't expect such a big film, but I'm thankful to live my dream," she shares.

While Anjali was eager to work with Bhat, it wasn't an immediate "yes." Recalling the experience, she says, "Every time Yogaraj Bhat worked on a new film, I'd message him, asking to audition. He'd always say, 'We'll find a character that fits you.' So, when I finally got the chance to audition for *Manada Kadalu*, I was ecstatic. But initially, I didn't get the role. I grieved for two weeks."

Eventually, Anjali was cast, alongside Sumukha and Rashika Shetty, in what the makers describe as a female-centric portrayal of friendship and love. "When I first found out I'd be working with Sumukha, it felt like a reunion. We're good friends from Mumbai, and everything fell into place," she says.

Manada Kadalu came with its own set of challenges. Yogaraj Bhat, known for *Mungaru Male*, had high expectations. "There's always pressure when you're part of a film expected to follow the success of a classic movie and director," Anjali admits. "But I've always been obsessed with cinema, and I knew this would be a learning experience. I focus on the positive side and not the pressure. I've been in this industry for over 10 years as an assistant director, so I've learned to handle expectations."

Anjali plays an archaeologist in *Manada Kadalu*, a role connected to her interests. "Ironically, I always imagined myself as an archaeologist, as I studied history and archaeology in my home school. So when I got the role, it felt like a full-circle moment," she smiles. The film's portrayal of female friendship stands out. "Yogaraj Bhat said the best on-screen chemistry was between Rashika and me. It's rare to see genuine female friendships, especially in romantic dramas. While *Manada Kadalu* is a triangular love story, it explores love from different perspectives. It's about love between friends, too, which is beautiful and relatable for today's generation," she adds.

A journey from assistant director to lead actor, Anjali compares her transition to graduating from high school to university. "Padavi Poorva was like my PUC, and *Manada Kadalu* is my degree. March 28 is like my exam result day," she laughs. "It's been challenging, but working with Yogaraj Bhat has been a masterclass."

On whether *Manada Kadalu* will break the success of *Mungaru Male*, Anjali remains grounded. "Everyone keeps asking if this is the next *Mungaru Male*. But I always say, 'This is the next *Manada Kadalu*.' We are set to create our own legacy," she signs off.

Anjali Anish

Rashika Shetty

'Yogaraj Bhat always says that love stories can never fail'

CE FEATURES

FOR many newcomers in cinema, a big break often feels like an impossible dream. But for Rashika Shetty, her leap into Kannada cinema came when she got a call from director Yogaraj Bhat. "When I got the call, I thought, 'Am I dreaming?'" she recalls. "I had no background in the industry. But when Yogaraj Bhat asked me to audition, I thought, 'Let me try. If I get through, it will be the best film to connect with the audience.'"

Her big break comes with *Manada Kadalu*, a film produced by E Krishnappa, set to release on March 28. Rashika hopes this film will soon define her career.

Rashika's journey into acting wasn't a traditional one. Raised in an orthodox family with little knowledge of cinema, her dream of becoming an actor was bold. Despite pressure from her family to pursue more "practical" careers like engineering, Rashika stood firm. "Cinema is everything to me," she says. "I grew up watching movies, and that's how I learnt. I chose cinema over anything else."

Rashika has high praise for the director. "Yogaraj Bhat has his own brand and way of working. He's not just a director; he's a teacher," she says. "Even if you walk in with a blank sheet of paper, he teaches you everything. Working with him has given me the confidence to survive on any set. With him, every day was a new lesson in the industry. He never made us feel pressured. It's all about learning and growing."

In *Manada Kadalu*, Rashika plays a cricketer named Rashika, starring alongside Sumukha and Anjali Anish. Apparently, she and Sumukha never connected during the filming of the movie. "We didn't talk at all during the shoot," she admits. Despite their off-screen distance, Rashika credits their on-screen chemistry to their unspoken connection. Yogaraj Bhat even mentioned that it was good they never spoke, as it helped their performance on screen. "Our aim was to bring his vision to life, and that's what made it work."

Rashika is confident and hoping that *Manada Kadalu* will break Mungaru Male records. "This is a love story that will connect with today's audience, but also with every generation before it," she says. "It will be a big hit. Yogaraj Bhat always says that love stories can never fail—provided they resonate with people."

As she takes that big step in her career, Rashika is determined to carve out her own niche in Kannada cinema. "I want to make my own name, just like the actresses Rakshita, Ramya, Radhika Pandit, Rachita Ram, and of course Rashmika Mandanna, who came before me. Their names all begin with 'Ra,' and they have succeeded. I want to follow suit. I will work hard to achieve my dreams," she concludes.

A still from the film